

THE
ENGLISH ROGUE;

OR,

L I F E

OF

JEREMY SHARP:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A NARRATIVE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY
DELIVERY OF

MARY TOFT,

Of Eighteen Rabbits;

Performed by Mr. JOHN HOWARD, Surgeon, at
Guildford, in Surry, in the Year 1726.

Published by Mr. ST. ANDRE, Surgeon and Anatomist
to his Majesty.

LIKEWISE,

AN EXACT DIARY

Of what was observed, during a close At-
tendance upon MARY TOFT, by Sir
R. Manningham, Knt. F. R. S. and of the
College of Physicians, from Nov. 28, to
Dec. 7.

*The World's a Wilderness, thro' which Men run,
Some to undo, and some to be undone.*

The Eighth Edition, in Three Volumes.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

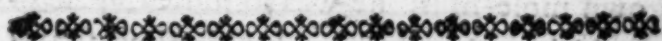
Sold by R. Hopwood, Crown-court, Soho; and all Bookfellers
in Town and Country.

MDCCLXXVI.





T H E
ENGLISH ROGUE;
O R, T H E
L I F E
O F
JEREMY SHARP.



C H A P. I.

His birth and parentage, with an account
of his miraculous escape from the Irish
rebels.

UPON the strictest enquiry that
I could make into my father's
pedigree, I never found that
any of his ancestors bore a coat; surely
Vol. I. B length

length of time had worn it out: but if the gentle-craft will any-ways ennoble our family, I believe I could produce several of his name practising that art, and deduce our genealogy even from Crispin himself, the prince of the profession.

My grandfather, by his great frugality, and constant labour in husbandry, arrived at the height of a farmer, who being then the head of all his kindred, as he was standing one day upon one of his own mole-hills, he was so puffed up with ambition, that he swore by his plow share, his eldest son, my father, should be a schollard, and should learn so long that he might not only be able to read written-hand, but, on an occasion, to draw a bill or bond himself.

It was never known, before the days of my father, that any of our ancient family could distinguish one letter from another, nor could they speak any language
much

much above the understanding of their horses. Grammar and logic were sciences they had never been initiated in; no mathematical problems ever puzzled their pates; and for arithmetic they knew none other than notching a tally, or scoring in chalk; but for music, some of them could whistle very well, and am told, that I had once an uncle, who was born with one eye only, that had an excellent hand on the fiddle, and played Jumping Joan and Moll Pateley, to such perfection, that he was held in high esteem at all the sheep-shearings and country wakes about the parish in which he lived. Some other of my relations had been very ingenious in driving a team, and had the art of shoeing their horses as well as themselves: others had such knowledge of the celestial bodies, that they could foretel a frost by the twinkling of the stars, and by leaning methodically on a staff, and by peeping through the holes in their hats, could tell what o'clock it was by the sun.

THE acuteness of my father's wit, with the beauty and symmetry of his person, procured him the love, or admiration of all that beheld him; as his handsome face and fine make gained him an interest with the women; so had he many friends among the best sort of men in the country for his quick apprehension, and the acquired quaintness of his expression. A gentleman at length, taking notice of his more than ordinary natural parts, sent him to school at his own proper charge, not but that my grandfather was able enough to maintain him there; and, to say the truth, this gentleman offered my father his patronage, not so much upon any charitable account, as that he might glory thereafter in bringing into the world so promising a genius, which he questioned not, with good cultivation, would bring forth such rare fruit as would answer his cost, and fully satisfy his expectations. Being admitted into the grammar school, by the strength of his memory, and his constant appli-

application, he, in a very short time, got all Lilly's rules by rote, out-stripping many who had been entered long before him. His master perceiving what a stupenduous proficiency he made, was very glad of this opportunity to be idle, and would appoint my father his deputy or usher, when he had a mind to make an offering at the shrines of Bacchus or Venus; for the good school-master, as other learned men sometimes are, was greatly addicted to drinking and whoring. My father having now conquered all the difficulties of that school, began to lay aside his book, and follow the steps of his vicious master, the examples of superior proving oftentimes snares to the actions of the inferior, *Regis ad Exemplum* ----- you know.

BESIDES his springing age, wherein the blood is hot and ungovernable, spurred him on, and the natural disposition of his

mind gave him wings to fly whither his unbounded and libidinous inclinations prompted him. His youth introduced him into all sorts of vanity, and his constitution of body was the mother of all his unlawful pleasures. His temperament gave sense the pre-eminence to reason. My grandfather, too indulgent to his son, supplied him continually with money, which he could do the more easily as he was not at the expence of his education, and my father having more than a bare competency, not only consents to the commission of evil himself, but seduces others to do the like, or is easily seduced by them, for he was of the frankest disposition in the world, and the best tempers are the soonest depraved, as the purest flesh is soonest corrupted, and the most noisome when it is so. Yet, notwithstanding these blooming debaucheries, he neglected not his studies so much, but that he qualified himself for the university, and was sent thither by his patron's

patron's approbation. Here, for a time, he applied himself so assiduously to his book, that he became a match for the best critic in his own college, or any of the rest; and in an assured confidence of his own abilities, ventured to attack the most formidable adversary, giving such proofs of his cutting wit, that he was as much dreaded by the formal and precise, as he was acceptable to the gay and sprightly; so that the Oxford gallants engrossed so much of his time in parties of pleasure, that he had little left to attend his studies; but giving way to their solicitations, and prompted by his own powerful inclinations, he plunged himself over head and ears in all manner of sensuality; 'till for his lewd practices, and inimitable wickedness, he was expelled the college.

HE was now forced to return to his father, who received him with great joy, but was quite ignorant of the cause of his leaving the university. To palliate his villanies,

villanies, he told his too credulous father, that he had learned as much as he was capable to be instructed in, and would now and then sprinkle his discourse with Greek and Latin sentences, which the poor old man was ravished with the sound of, although he understood not one word of what he heard. When the young Oxonian began to speak at any time, then would my grandfather, and all the company, sit as silent as midnight, and the old gentleman, full of admiration himself, would beckon to the standers-by to give their attention, to what the Speaker, many times, as little understood as his Auditors, for he cared not what nonsense he uttered, if wrapt up in unintelligible hard words, purposely to abuse the honest plow-jobbers. At length my father, in great ostentation, was presented to the parson of the parish, who, by good fortune, knew no other language than what his mother had taught him; so that
Shouldera-

Shoulderamuton, Akapon, Pasty Venafon, went off for very good Greek. The parson telling my grandfather that his son was an excellent scholar, protested he spoke many things that he did not understand: this, I have heard him say, made him good sport, and gave him as much diversion as ever he had in the most ingenious society.

He had not been long in the country, before a young lady, admiring his fine person and great parts, fell desperately in love with him, and preferring her own to the inclinations of her wealthy relations, was incontinently married to him. I shall not enter into all the particulars of this affair, and how it was brought about, but only relate one part of them that was the most remarkable. The young lady, not able to bridle her passion, acquaints an old matronly gentlewoman in the neighbourhood with it, who, having always been a well-wisher to the mathematicks, contrived

frived ways to get them together unsuspected of any body, and then set them to work without the help of a parson; but my mother, for I must now call her so, finding herself pregnant, told my father how it was with her, who, rejoicing that he had tied her so fast to him, pressed her to the speedy consummation of a legal marriage, which she was as desirous of as himself, but knew very well that she should highly displease her parents by matching so much beneath her; however, there was no other remedy to save her reputation, nor any thing so fit to stop the gap that was made in her honour, and in another part a great deal more ticklish: so they concluded to steal a wedding. Much troubled her parents were when they first came to hear of it, but by the intercession of friends, a very submissive behaviour, and a full persuasion that their child would not otherwise have been happy or contented, a reconciliation was procured

cured, and all parties at length well satisfied. The old people began to have great expectations of their son-in-law; my father had great consolation from a large sum of money they paid him; and my mother was highly pleased at the thoughts of having my father constantly with her, of whose kindness and conversation she thought she could never have enough.

My father-in-law, thinking the church the highway to preferment, and he being so well qualified for it, prevailed upon him to go into holy orders, after which he procured for him a nobleman's scarf, with whom he travelled into Ireland, where he lived both creditably and comfortably; for he had now so reformed his life that his example did more good than his precepts, although he was allowed to be an excellent preacher.

My mother now grew near the time of her travail, having conceived me in England,

land, when she could not conceive that she should thus drop me in a bog in Ireland, where I was at length brought into the world; and there is no doubt but England and Ireland, after my decease, will contend for the honour of my nativity, as several towns in Greece did for that of Homer's.

FOUR years after my birth, the rebellion began so unexpectedly, that we were forced to fly in the night; the light of the flaming houses, ricks of hay, and stacks of corn, guiding us out of the town, and our fears soon conveying us to the mountains. The rebels flocked together in great parties, and wandering about to seek the English, whom they designed to sacrifice to their implacable malice, met my mother, attended by two scullogues, her menial servants; the one carrying me, and the other my brother, about a year younger than myself; the fates had decreed

creed my brother's death, who was butchered, with the faithful servant that had him in his care; but the surviving servant who carried me, declaring that he was a Roman Catholick, and imploring their mercy, with his howling chram a crees for St. Patrick a gra, procured his own, my mother's, and my liberty; yet not till they had stripped our bodies stark naked in an extreme cold night. Thus, without shoes or stockings, or the least rag to cover our nakedness, with the help of our guide, we travelled all night thro' woods and wilds, finding ourselves at Belfast, about break of day, when, upon entering into the skirts of the town, the honest and grateful scullogue, being assured we were in safety, took his leave of us, and returned to the rebels.

In this place we met with much pity from all, and some charitable well-disposed people entertain'd, cloathed and fed us. My father, who hid himself in a hol-

low tree, with much difficulty escaped, and got to us, there being great search made for him, for the rebels had a more than common hatred to the Protestant ministers, not contenting themselves to strip and murder the living; they also dug up the bones of several that had been buried many years, because they were, as they said, the patrons of heresy. At Belfast, when the massacre was over, my father often preached, and gave great satisfaction to his auditors, till the Scottish faction, judged the sack or surplice to be the absolute sinock of the whore of Babylon. Then was he constrained to fly again to Linsgarvy, taking my mother and myself with him.

I MUST here beg the reader's patience a little before I proceed farther, and take leave to make a small digression in giving a brief account of the Irish massacre. The ancient hatred and animosities which
the

the Irish had been observed, for a long time before, to bear to the English, had now for some years seemed to be quite forgotten, and the people of the two nations, to all outward appearance, lived together in very good harmony. Their inter-marriages were almost as frequent as their gossipings and fosterings, relations of great endearment among the Irish. They adopted one another's customs and manners; and many of the better sort of Irish took delight in learning the English language, and wearing the English apparel; and by this commerce and good understanding they found such profit, and their lands were so greatly improved, that Sir Phelim O-Neal, that cruel ringleader of the rebels, with divers others, eminent in that bloody insurrection, had turned off their Irish tenants, and admitted English in their rooms, who were able to give greater rents, and find better security for the payment of them: so that all circum-

stances considered, the great increase of trade, and other symptoms of a flourishing country, it was believed, even by the wisest and most experienced in the affairs of Ireland, that the peace and tranquility of that kingdom was fully settled, and in all human probability likely to continue so, especially under the government of such a king as Charles the First, whom after-ages may admire, but hardly ever will match; such was the serenity, and seeming security of this kingdom, that there appeared not any-where the least preparation for war, nor any whispers of what afterwards happened; but in the midst of this imaginary safety, whilst the Protestant subjects of that nation, were pleasantly enjoying the fruits of their own labour, and sitting under their own vines, without the least apprehension of danger, there broke out, on the 23d of October, 1641, a most desperate and unnatural

ral rebellion, wherein not only the meer native Irish, but almost all those English who professed the Roman-Catholick religion, were totally involved.

As I have undertaken to give the reader a particular account of the most remarkable transactions and passages of my life, it would be inexcusable to omit what befel me in the beginning of it, at this most extraordinary time of calamity; and and that I may satisfy him herein, I shall give a summary relation, not only of my own sufferings, but what others underwent from the cruelties of the Irish, and the abominable murders by them committed, as well without number, as without mercy, upon the English Protestants of both sexes, and all ages.

It was carried with such secrecy, that none knew of the conspiracy 'till the very evening that preceded the night of the ge-

neral execution. It is true therè was something of it more than suspected by one Sir William Cole, in the country, who immediately sent away letters to the Lords Justices, but they were intercepted before they came to their hands. Owen O-Conally, though meer Irish, was, nevertheless, a Protestant, and the first discoverer of the intended insurrection at Dublin; where he gave in the names of several of the chief conspirators; upon which the Lords Justices presently called a council, and used such care and diligence, that some of the ringleaders were instantly taken into custody, and examined, who confessed, that, on that very day, all the ports and strong places in Ireland were to be seized, and that there was a considerable number of gentlemen, and others, twenty at least out of each county, come up, on purpose to surprize the cast'e of Dublin; but for what was to be done in
the

the country, they said, it was too late for the power of man to prevent it. Hereupon a strict search was made for all strangers lately come into the city, and all horses were seized, whose owners could not give a good account of them. A proclamation was published, giving notice of a horrid plot of the Irish Papists intended against the Protestants; but this was of little service, for the rebels had before then assembled in great numbers, principally in the north in the province of Ulster, taking many towns, as Newry, Drummore, &c. burning, spoiling, and committing execrable murders every-where. These things occasioned such a consternation in the minds of the English, as they very well might, that they thought themselves no where secure, running about, from place to place, out of one danger into another.

In a very short time, the meer Irish northern Papists, by closely pursuing their
plot,

plot, had got into their possession most of the towns, forts, castles, and gentlemen's houses in the counties of Tyron, Donnegal, Fermanah, Armagh, &c. The chief who appeared in the execution of this plot, in the province of Ulster, were Sir Phelim O-Neal, Tourlough, his brother, Roure-Mac-Guire, Philip O-Rely, Sir Conne-Mac-Gennis, Mac-Brian, and Mac-Mahon; these, combining with their accomplices, divided their forces, and surprized the forts of Dungannon, Mountjoy, and Charlemont, with many other places of considerable strength. Few of the English had other than Irish landlords, tenants, servants, neighbours, or familiar acquaintance: as soon as the fire broke out, and the whole country was in flames, they fled to some of these, relying upon them for protection, and with great confidence trusted their lives and fortunes in their hands; but they were all very short'y betrayed to others, or destroyed by their
treacherous

treacherous friends. The priests exhorting them to this holy butchery, giving the sacrament to divers of the Irish, upon condition that they should spare neither men, women, nor children of the Protestants. They read excommunication against all such as should relieve or harbour any English, Scottish, or Welch Protestants, or give them any alms. The day before the massacre begun, the priests gave the people a dismiss at mass, with liberty to go out, and take possession of all the lands of the Protestants, as also strip, rob, and despoil them of all their goods and cattle.

IN the town of Colerain, of the poor wretches who fled thither for succour, many thousands died in two days, so that the living were not enough to bury the dead, whose carcases were thrown together in great pits. One Magdalen Redman, with many Protestants, among whom were two-and-twenty widows,
were

were first robbed, and then stripped naked; and when they had covered themselves with straw, the bloody Papists set fire to it, and afterwards drove them into the woods, where they perished with extreme cold.

At Portendown-bridge, a thousand men, women, and children, were carried in several companies, and all unmercifully drowned in the river. A young Scottish woman's child the rebels took by the heels, and dashed its brains out against a tree: some men and women these barbarous Papists constrained to murder their children; and some children were compelled unnaturally to execute their own parents.

THE Irish trulls, who followed the camp, cried out, "Kill them all, spare neither man, woman, nor child." A child of one Thomas Stratton, about twelve years old, was boiled in a caldron.

In

In some places they plucked out the eyes, and cut off the hands of the Protestants, and turned them into the fields, where they perished. In other parts the women stoned the English women and children to death. The very children imitated the cruelty of their parents, of which I shall carry a mark to my grave, by a wound that was given me with a skein by one of my Irish play-fellows. It was high time for us to remove, but whither we knew not, every place we arrived at seeming less secure than that we had left last; wherefore we were in continual motion, and coming at length to the sea-shore, we got into a ship, trusting ourselves to the more merciful waves. This ship sailed the next day for England; but my father, what with the terror he had been under, and the fatigue of his travelling, died almost as soon as we came on board; so were my mother and myself left with nothing to support us, but the
 hopes

hopes she had in her relations in Devonshire, to whom we made the best of our way, and were kindly received by them, after my mother's humbling herself for her transgressions, and recounting the misfortunes she had gone through.

I WAS now about five years of age; and report had rendered me a very beautiful child; neither did it, as most commonly, prove a liar; but pity it is, that with a handsome face, I had not been enriched with those endowments of the mind which are far more preferable: but, alas! it was quite otherwise. For although I was so very young, I was as great a rogue as a child of that age is capable of being, and indulged myself in all the waggaries and little mischievous tricks I could think of. I remember, among other pranks, we had a turkey-cock, that had a great spite at my red coat, and gave me many a brush, which made me study how to be revenged, and I was not long in compassing my
end;

end; for, enticing him to the orchard-gate, which shut with a pully, he no sooner put his head between that and the post, but I suddenly let it fall, and caught him by the neck; having him thus fast, I exerted all the little strength I had, and dispatched him with my catstick; then, as a trophy of my victory, over my mortal foe, I despoiled him of his tail and wing feathers, which I stuck in my bonnet, and took such pride in gazing upwards at the spoils of my conquest, that I perfectly strained my optic nerves, and was in some danger of squinting. This was no small trouble to my mother, who doated on me so much, that I have often heard her say, she forgot to eat sometimes, when I sat at table, she was so taken up with admiring the sweetness of my features and complexion: However, this concern lasted not long, for in a very little time my sparkling eyes recovered their usual lustre, and their oblique as-

pects were hardly discernable, or if there were some little cast left, it was so far from being a blemish, that it was rather an ornament to my face; that face which, by the help of a deluding tongue, and an intrepid assurance, proved afterwards a snare to myself, and too many tender-hearted females: but neither my beauty nor my mother's wit, at present, would serve to maintain us, for our kindred thinking we lay too long upon them, began to grumble and grow weary of our company, which made my mother, who was naturally of a high spirit, to take leave of them, and throw herself upon providence.

FROM Barnstaple (for this was the place where my mother's relations lived) we travelled to Plymouth, we being altogether unacquainted both with the people and their profession, my mother cast about with herself to know how we were to be
pro-

provided for, and, having a pregnant wit, found no way more expedient than a pretence of religion; for zeal and piety were then all the fashion; so she seemed to follow the text in a literal sense: "Without doubt godliness is great gain." But she had like to have been mistaken when she was about to profess the doctrine of the church of England, nor would she have been better off had she called herself a Presbyterian, for the Plymotheans were rigid independants, therefore to those principles she stuck close, and thereby raised some comfortable contributions, in private, to supply her wants; much had she borrowed of the sisterhood, when they began to suspect her of having too much familiarity with the brethren, and giving way to the carnal man, which obliged her to rub off to another place, lest, when the holy vizard was taken away, she might have been delivered up to Satan to be buffeted.

Now farewell Plymouth, no matter whether we went, for in what place soever we came, we still found some or other that gave us entertainment for the good parts they found in my mother. She was well read both in divinity and history, and having much rhetoric on her tongue and in her eyes, she commonly applied herself to the minister of the town, who, wondering to find so much learning and perfection in a woman, either took her into his own house for awhile, or gathered something from his friends and parishioners, with which we supplied our present necessities, and were enabled to travel to the next town; and in this manner we wandered up and down, staying but a short time in any one place, and my mother, being more studious how to get a subsistence, than to season my tender years with the knowledge of letters, I was ten years old before I could read; coming at last to Bridport, in Dorsetshire, we found

means

means to settle, my mother knew best how; and here, after she had taught me the alphabet, which I learned in fewer hours than there are letters in it, I was sent to the grammar school, where I soon grew a meer book worm, securing to my own use as many books as I could find an opportunity to convey away privately, so metamorphosing them before I ventured to sell them, that the true owners could not know them.

THIS course I followed for a long time, which cost my school-fellows severe punishments for their carelessness: as for the money I had various uses for it; the principal was, to bribe some of the upper-form to make my exercises for me; which were so well approved of by my master, that I always came off with applause, and in a short time was so far advanced, that I was next to the highest form, when I understood not the lowest author we read.

I was forced to employ all my wit, to keep touch with my pensioners, that I might maintain my post; for if they should have failed me, I must have lost all credit with my master, and have been brought into the utmost disgrace with the whole school. The trouble of making my exercise being thus taken off my hands, I had the more leisure to rob orchards, and play many other pranks that I more delighted in; such as milking cows in my hat, plucking the first and second quills off from the wings of as many geese as came in my way; and if I happened to meet any straggling poultry I made sure of them; at night I frequented the hen-roosts, taking them gently of the perch, for fear of disturbing the rest; and if I could not conveniently bring them away, I used to make their eggs compound for their heads; at other times, I was wont to fish for ducks, baiting my hook with a piece of gut, or some such trash, and laying
it

it on a cork, that it might be the sooner perceived, I could catch as many as I pleased, and when I had got them, there was an old woman in the town, that dealt in gingerbread and toys, who was ready to receive them, and purchased them for a trifle, but would sometimes allow me to partake of the good cheer I had brought her, as indeed she very well might ; for I had seldom above two-pence for the value of a shilling, and sometimes, like New-England-men, we bartered ware for ware.

I KNEW my punishment for rambling and playing truant, but valued it not ; so there were but little hopes of a reformation from thence. As for my thefts and rogueries abroad, I was careful enough not to be discovered : if any boy injured me, whose strength exceeded mine, so that I could not cope with him fairly, I would exercise my revenge on him privately, concealing the resentment I had of
the

the injury done me ; for to grin and not bite, doth but provoke an adversary to knock out those teeth which may sometime or other hurt him. The secret ways I took to satisfy this passion, which some call sweet, were such as strewing pease upon the stairs or steps, I knew my antagonist was to come down ; sticking pins in the place he was to sit ; scattering cut horse-hair in his bed, or contriving means to make him blot his book ; for which I, with a great deal of pleasure, saw him undergo the discipline of the ferula, at least. My master, at length, discovering my defect of learning, and how much he had been deceived, after a severe whipping for mispending my precious time, degraded me to the lowest form. The shame of which, and the reproach I daily met with from my school-fellows, were such indignities, that my proud heart could never submit to ; wherefore I prevailed upon my mother's indulgence to let me try to regain

gain at home what I had lost at school, which she consented to; but soon perceiving my wanton inclinations, by my night practices with her maid, she resolved to send me to a boarding-school; for our family being small, I lay with the maid, and, at my years, my mother could not suspect any danger in it; but I was a forward youth, and, having such a delicious creature of about fifteen years of age in the naked bed with me, it was impossible to lie quiet, and I did indeed many times put her to the squeak. In fine, I was sent away to a great distance, and placed under a very severe master, who made me set close to my book, and lest my wit should be dulled, my stomach was kept sharp, which likewise sharpened my invention, and put me upon many schemes to suppress the intestine war in my belly; for certainly there is no complaint more troublesome than the grumbling of empty guts. My greatest care was to insinuate my-

myself into the favour of the maids, knowing very well, that they would rather play at small game than stand out : and I performed my business so well among them, that I had always my belly full, while the other boarders were dissatisfied, and oftentimes went to bed superfluous.

IN this place I had not the same opportunities for pilfering as before, it being but a small village, and having no way to dispose of my stolen goods ; however, to keep my hand in use, I daily practised on fruit, sometimes with a spar, sharpened at one end, I pricked the apples out of baskets ; at other times I carried a comrade with me, and then we took this method : I would go to a fruiterer and bargain with him for a pennyworth, or more, of apples, receiving them into my hat, then pretending to draw my money out to pay for them, I clapt my hat between

between my legs, which, as soon as my partner saw, who stood at some distance, he ran up, as we had contrived it, and snatching it from between my legs behind, ran away with it; upon which I used to roar out, as if I had been utterly ruined, and undone; so pretending to speed after to regain my hat, as soon as we got out of fight, we sat down and shared the booty.

ONE day, going along the market by myself, I saw a small basket of cherries, when they were but just come into season, and very scarce; I asked the woman who sold them, what she would have for as many as I could take up in my hand; she looking upon it, and seeing it was but a very small one, proportionable to my stature, said, two-pence; whereupon I laid down her price, and, taking up the basket with all the cherries in it, walked off in a very sober pace. The woman,
fur-

surprized at being thus bit by a younker, followed me, and, making a great noise, gathered a crowd about us; among the rest, a gentleman of considerable fashion, who was very earnest to know what was the matter; so holding my purchase fast in my hands, for I was very unwilling to part with the only booty I had ever yet obtained fairly; I desired the gentleman to be the judge between us, and thereupon related to him in what manner I had bargained with the woman, and said I had done nothing but what was agreeable to our contract. The gentleman, pleased with my wit and my impudence, laughed heartily, and condemned the cherries to my own use, but withal paid the poor woman for them.

I WAS so naturally prone to please my senses, that I cared not what course I took so I obtained my ends; but, perhaps, had not put my invention so much on the
tinters,

tenters, if I had any thing allowed me for a moderate expence ; but my mother thought otherwife, knowing the extravagance of my inclinations, and therefore debarred me as much as ſhe could from the very ſight of money. Rivers confined within artificial mounds, diverting nature's courſe, will, when thoſe are overthrown, which impeded their progreſs, flow with the greater impetuofity.

THUS youth may for a while be circumscribed in its deſires ; but when their inclinations prompt them to the enjoyment of ſenſual delights, ſooner or later they will have their ſwing, and the earlier the better, for then before the meridian of life, experience may reform their manners ; but it is commonly obſerved, that men, who, in the afternoon, or declenſion of their lives, deviate into the fatal tracks of vice, ſeldom return, or are ſtopt

in their passage by any thing but death itself. Thus much by way of digression.

THE school-master I was now with, being much indisposed, and not able to come into the school, would send for his boarders often into his bed-chamber, and give us instructions there. A gentleman one day having sent his son five guineas to pay for his schooling, board, &c. our master receiving them, called for a small cabinet that stood in the room, which I, more officious than the rest, ran and brought to him. The old man, having put his gold into it, ordered me to carry it to the place from whence I had it. This cabinet, though but small, was very heavy, which made me imagine there must be a great deal of money in it, so I resolved with myself to make it my prize. The Devil, being my tutor, suggested many ways to my thoughts to accomplish my villainous design; and at last I determined upon getting an impression of the key

key in wax, and have another made by it; but when I had obtained this, with much difficulty, and carried it to a smith about four miles off, the old fellow, immediately, upon my presenting it to him, began to ask me abundance of questions, with a very suspicious countenance, and I, not knowing what answers to make him, betook myself to my heels; upon which, the smith, thinking to make some advantage to himself, by a discovery of my design, took to his heels likewise, to pursue me, with a red-hot iron in his hand, which his haste had made him forget to lay aside; but when he was just come up with me, a man standing by, and seeing him with that terrible weapon in his hand, fearing his blind passion might urge him to do me some mischief, that he might afterwards be sorry for, very fairly laid the smith upon his back, who, in the fall, gave himself a burnt mark in the hand, which, no doubt, he had long be-

fore deserved ; my unknown friend would not suffer him to rise, 'till I was quite out of sight, and so I got clear of this apprehension. Despairing afterwards to do any good by the same way, I resolved on another, and tried a pick-lock of my own invention ; but that would not effect my design neither, so I concluded to take cabinet and all : in order whereunto, I watched my opportunity 'till my master was walked abroad for the air, and then, slipping into his chamber, concealed myself under the bed, 'till I found the coast clear, and then I conveyed myself and my purchase out of the house, travelling all night, till I came to a little village about sixteen miles from the place I sat out at.

BELIEVING myself now perfectly secure, I thought it would be requisite to repose my wearied limbs ; therefore I went into a small inn, and called for a pint of sack,

sack, having heard much talk of that liquor, but never tasted it. I now began to ruminate upon my great treasure, and how I should dispose of it, when the master of the house brought in the wine, and having viewed me very attentively, and often throwing his eyes upon the casket, asked me abundance of impertinent questions, as I thought them, as, Whence I came? Whither I was going? And what I had got? But before I had time to answer him, in came the constable with a hue-and-cry after me, which immediately struck my mounting hopes as flat as a frying-pan, for both myself and my treasure were laid hold of, and hurried away, even without giving me time to taste my rich liquor.

UPON the news of what had happened, various were the discourses of the people that were gathered about me: "This says one, is a prime rogue to begin so soon: he would have stolen something

out of his mother's belly, said another, if he could have seen there. Well, cried a third, it is an old saying, Forward fruit is soon rotten; and since he has begun to steal while he is a child, he will be hanged before he is a man." Every old woman in the town had a fling at me; and, ready to die with fear, I was sent back to my master, who, having compassion on my youth, would not give me up to public justice, but made me a prisoner in his own house, 'till he could acquaint my mother with what had passed. I was not quite starved in my confinement, but my commons were very much epitomized; neither was I altogether without company, for my master daily visited me with a cat-of-nine-tails, with which he flogged my buttocks, and when he found me stubborn, or not penitent enough, as he thought, he would wash my raw posteriors with an agreeable 'pickle of salt and water.

WITHIN

WITHIN a week my mother arrived ; who, being acquainted with this my early thievery, was so impatient, that she would needs take me to task herself, but when she had untruss'd me, and saw me in so woe-ful a plight, my tender breach plow'd up and harrowed, and my shirt as stiff as buckram with blood, her anger failed, and she fell down in a swoon ; but, being come to herself again by the assistance of my master, he took pains to convince her how necessary it was to bend a twig before it came to a tree, and that great punishments were due to great crimes ; and then proceeded to tell her of many other of my tricks and rogueries : and first began with a prank I had played one of his maids, who, having cross'd me, to be revenged of her, as she was one day fallen asleep by the fire, I took that opportunity to melt some glew, and gently touch'd the closure of both her eye-lids with a pencil, which I well knew would lock up her sight.

Against

Against the time I intended to wake her, I placed before her all the chairs and stools in the kitchen, then pretending her mistress called suddenly, the wench started up, and, running, rubbing her eyes, turned topside turvy over the chairs, trying to get up, she engaged with stools, and endeavouring to untangle herself, her petticoats acted the part of traytors, and discovered the most valuable secrets of the sex. My master went on, that he did not doubt but I had great satisfaction in my revenge ; but the poor wench had like to have gone distracted, for she could not be persuaded but that she was struck with Blindness, as a judgment for some heinous sin she had privately committed, and was about to confess all ; when the glew, with a great deal of care and trouble, was picked from her eye-lids, and she restored, by that means, to her sight.

THE

THE next thing the old pedagogue recounted to my mother was, how, when he went about to correct me for the last-mentioned piece of roguery with the maid, I had served him a very shitten trick indeed, for having made myself laxative on purpose, at the first lash he gave me I very filthily squirted in his face. Another time, he said, I had watched a parcel of lusty young girls, who went to wash themselves in a fine summer's night, in a small brook a little way out of town, and that, as soon as they were in the water, I stole away their cloaths, and forced them to dance home stark-naked, in the view of some of their sweethearts, whom I had fetched to a bye-place for that purpose.

My master related a great many more such tricks that he knew, but those were not a tenth-part of what he knew not. As for example; on Christmas-day we
 had

had a large pot of plumb-pottage made for the family, of which, when it was taken off the fire, I desired the maid to give me a taste, to see if I liked it; this was the same maid whose eyes I had glewed up; and therefore you may be assured she was very ready to oblige me, so she takes up a ladle-full, and bad me sup, holding the ladle in her own hand, and I indiscreetly gaping wider than I ought, she poured the whole ladle-full of scalding pottage down my throat: I could not possibly tell her how I liked it, at that time, but I verily thought I had swallowed the Devil; I took no notice of this passage at the instant, resolving to retalliate her kindness when she the least thought on it. I observed that she carried the great pot of pottage, that I could not lift, to the kitchen-door in the yard, whilst she went up stairs with a piece of roast beef; I likewise observed that it was near to the jack-weight, which wound up under a small pent-

pent-house ; the roast-meat being but just taken up, and the jack down, I suddenly removed the weight, and fastened the pot to the line, so, returning to the kitchen, wound it up to the top. The maid soon after looking for her pot, put the whole house in an uproar with the out-cry she made about it, every one wondering what could become of it, for she averred that it was there but that minute, and none but the Devil could have removed it. We had an old Puritan in the house, as every place was then infested with them, who was very certain that it was a judgment for our supposing one day more holy than another, and preparing such a superstitious and prophane mess ; but the miracle ceased the next day, when, upon putting down the roast meat, the pottage pot descended again by the jack-line.

ANOTHER time my master had reserved in his garden some choice apricots, not
above

above half a score, with which he purposed to treat some friends, who were shortly to visit him. The daily sight of this delicate forbidden fruit most strongly tempted me to commit a rape upon it, but I made choice of an unpropitious hour, for my master looked out of his window, and saw me gather them; tho', being weak-sighted, he could not absolutely tell whether it was I or no. Hereupon he presently summoned all the boys together; being met, I quickly guessed at the meaning of it, and so sily conveyed the apricots into another's pocket: I had no sooner done this, but we were ordered to be searched. I was very forward to be the first, though the most suspected; and nothing being found upon me, I was acquitted. But to see with what amazement the poor boy gaped and stared when the apricots were taken out of his pocket, how strangely [he looked, distorting his face into a thousand different forms, it produced

produced laughter even from my incensed master; but real pity from me, for he was most severely whipped for the crime I had committed.

I COULD relate many more such childish rogueries, did I not fear to tire the reader with the recital of my juvenile follies: therefore shall return to where I left off. Whilst my mother was in consultation with my master and her own prudence, how she should dispose of me, not willing to wait the result, I slipped down stairs, and, getting into the street, took my heels, resolving to throw myself upon fortune, and ramble the wide world at a venture.

*Thus head-strong folly rashly spur'd me on,
With early steps, in haste to be undone.*

C H A P. II.

His behaviour in the beginning of his rambles, and the fright he was in by being unexpectedly surrounded by a company of gypsies. Lifts himself among them. The order they observe. Leaving the Gypsies, follows the begging trade. The tricks he played in that vocation.

IT was in the month of July when I went out on my first knight-errantry, the fineness of the season much favoured my enterprize, and thinking I should always enjoy such weather, and never be pinched with cold or necessity, I pursued my way courageously. I rambled up and down the fields to view the harvest, and, for want of other provisions, made a dinner of nuts and blackberries, which, at that time, I thought very delicious fare, and the more so, as I had nobody now to controul me. Night coming on, I was

to think of a lodging, and plainly perceived that I must forego my down-bed for a hay-cock, and was like to have no coverlid but the canopy of Heaven: however, as I had no lesson to con over-night, nor the dread of over-sleeping myself in the morning, I laid myself down and rested pretty comfortably, but not without some frightful dreams; the last was of a cat-of-nine-tails, which made me cry out and awake myself.

Now had the early lark, with warbling notes, proclaimed the rosy fingered morn's approach, who, in her saffron robe, swept over the mountains top: when I, starting from my rural couch, renewed my wandering progress; but, in spite of all my former resolution, sad and melancholic thoughts came into my mind, when I reflected not only on the grief I had left my mother in, but upon my own condition rambling I knew not whither, with-

out money or friends; and, above all, hunger began to pinch me, for the wild and raw diet I found on the hedges was no longer pleasant to me; but weathering that day with some discontent, the next night I got into a barn, where, being heartily tired, I blessed my good fortune, and tumbled over head-and-ears in clean straw. I had not lain here above an hour before I heard a noise, and peeping out of my nest to see what was the matter, the day being shut in, I could but just discern a great many strange creatures come into the barn. My thoughts presently represented to my mind all I had heard of hobgoblins, fairies, and the like, and I imagined these could be no other; my belief was confirmed by their uncouth garb, guage I understood not, but which I have since learned to be canting. I lay still as long and their talking to one another in a language as my fears would permit me, but when they began to surround me, I could contain

tain no longer, but cried out aloud,
 “Great Lord, have mercy on me, and
 “suffer not these Devils to devour me:”
 and with that started from among them,
 and got out of the barn, but they taking
 me for a sprite, or the ghost of some murdered
 person that haunted the place, were
 in as much fear as I, and fell likewise to
 running, leaving their children behind
 them; and I finding them, notwithstanding
 all the speed I made, just at my heels,
 fell down upon my knees to prayers, by
 which means they came up with me, and
 perceiving that I was a likely lad, they
 intreated me to go back with them, and
 said, they would do me no harm; but I
 had heard the Devil was a liar from the
 beginning, therefore I would not believe
 them. They would have raised me from
 my devotion, telling me it was enough,
 and that made me suspect them the more,
 thinking they wanted to get me out of a
 praying posture, that they might have the
 more power over me.

Not being soon prevailed upon, they vowed and protested they would not injure me, and that if I would go with them I should eat, drink, and fare as they did; this was a powerful argument with an empty stomach, and so I returned with them to the barn. All their cry now was for rum-booze, *i. e.* good liquor, whereupon their Captain commanded out four able Maunders [beggars] ordering them to strole to the next town, every one going apart. The country people soon gave them drink, fearing they might fire their houses else in the night; others of the more ignorant sort thought they could raise spirits to hurt them, or bewitch their cattle, therefore would not deny them, so that in a short time they returned laden with liquor: it was presently placed in the middle of us, who sat in a circle, then out came their wooden dishes, with which every one was provided but myself, but I was soon supplied by a young Rum-mort
that

that sat next me, intended for my sporting mate, Every one taking his cup in hand, a health went round to the Prince of Maunders, another to the great Duke of Clapperdungeons, a third to the Marquis of Doxy-dels and Rum-morts, and a fourth to the Earl of Clymes; titles which perhaps the readers are unacquainted with, as I was at that time; but I soon learned what they meant, and intend to communicate my knowledge to them in its due time. Most part of the night we spent in boozing, pecking rumly, or wapping, that is, drinking, eating, and whoring.

JEALOUSY is a passion that they never give way to in this society. The males and females lie promiscuously together, and it is free for any of the fraternity to make choice of what doxy he likes best, and change when he pleases. They plied me so close with rum looze, (as they called

ed it) and pleased me so well in giving me a young girl to dally with, who, though in rags, and a skin artificially discoloured, had charms enough to make me very happy, and, for her sake, I was resolved to list into the ragged regiment, which resolution I first acquainted my doxy with, and she told it to the rest of the fraternity, who, well pleased, tipt a gage of booze round to my health, and then we all coucht a hogthead, that is, went to sleep for that night.

THE next morning, to fit me for^d the the society, my new companions began with stripping me, then sold my own garments to cloath me in rags, which they pinned about me, giving here and there a stitch, as necessity seemed to require. When we entered our libkin, or lodging at night, we were not used to pull off our cloaths; and indeed had I been forced to it, I know not how I should have got them
on

on again. My face they stained with green walnut-shells, so that any one who saw me could not but take me for a true tawny son of Egypt. Before we proceed on our march, let me give you an account of our leaders, and the ranks we were disposed in. Our Chief Commander was called by the name of Ruffeler, the next to him the Upright-man, the rest in the following order :

1. Hookers or Anglers.—2. Priggers of Prancers.—3. Pallyards.—4. Fraters.
5. Priggs.—6. Swadlers.—7. Curtals.—
- 8 Irish Toyle.—9. Swigmen.—10. Jarke-
- men.—11. Patricoes.—12. Kitchen Coes.
13. Abram-Men.—14. Whip-Jacks.—
15. Counterfeit-Cranks.—16. Domne-
- rars.—17. Glymmerers.—18. Bawdy-
- Baskets.—19. Autem-Morts.—20. Doxies.
21. Dells.—22. Kitchen-Morts.

WE mustered above threescore, old and young; and because we were too
great

great a company to march together, we were divided into three squadrons. The first squadron that led the van was ordered by our Commander, to stick up small boughs all the way they went, that we might know what course they steered. For, like wild-fowl, we flew one after another, and, though we were separated, yet, like water divided with a sword, we easily came together again. As the Switzer hath his wench and his cock with him when he goes to the wars, and almost every foldier in the Scottish army the geud wife and bearns following him; so had we every one his doxy, carrying her lullaby-cheat at her back, and another in her arms. When they are wearied with the burthen, they put them in a pair of panniers, like green geese going to market, or mackarel in doffers coming from Rye. And here it is to be noted, that each division hath a small horse or two, or at least asses to ease them of their loads.

SOME

SOME of us were antickly clad, with bells and other toys merely to allure the country people, and draw them about us, which commonly answered our ends. For in many places they would flock to us in great numbers, and then was the time to make our markets. We pretended an intimate acquaintance with the stars, being descendents from the Egyptian Magi, the founders of the astrologic art; and that the ministers of the fates were our familiars: so possessing the ignorant people with a belief that we could tell their fortunes by looking into their hands or faces, whilst we seemed to be seriously inspecting those, some of our diving companions picked their pockets, or with a short sharp knife, and an horn upon their thumb, cut a hole in their purses. By asking the silly wench questions we could often gather from their own mouths the properest answers to make them; then would they stare, and, full of admiration,

per-

perfectly tremble to hear the truth come out of the mouths of those whom they thought strangers to their actions; by this art from many we gained great respect accompanied by fear.

THUS we rambled up and down the country; and when the people treated us uncivily, we made their lambs, pigs, and poultry, pay for it: our kitchen and dining-room were commonly some furzy heath, or a gravel-pit, and our lodging the barns, or out-houses of farmers and husbandmen, which we chose in some straggling village where the inhabitants dared not to refuse our request, for fear they should find their thatched houses too hot to hold them before morning. After we had supped, we seldom went to sleep without good store of rum•booze, and some merry catches in our own canting dialect, an alphabetical vocabulary of which, for the satisfaction and instruction

of the reader, I will place at the conclusion of this work. Our catches were, for the most part, too smutty to be inserted here: however, as a specimen, I shall give you the beginning of one of them.

*Being out bien Morts, and toure and toure,
Being out bien Morts and toure,
For all your duds are bing'd a wast
The bien Cove hath the loure.*

*I met a dell, I view'd her well,
She was benship to my watch;
So she and I did stall and cloy,
Whate'er we could catch.*

*This doxy dell can cut bien whids,
And wap well for a win;
And prig and cloy so benshiply,
All the deusea-vile within.*

*The boyle was up, we had good luck,
In frost for and in snow:
When they did seek, then we did creep,
And plant in Ruff-man's low.*

THE first inventor of canting, as I have been informed, was hanged about four-score years ago; such gibberish was never known before; but, since his time, there have not been wanting those who have undertaken to polish and augment it. Gibberish is a strange invention of words, grounded on no certain rules; and no wonder, since the practitioners therein are all fathers and nurses of disorder: yet, even in their irregularity, a man may observe some kind of form, and some words looking a little like scholarship. As Togeman, a gown, from Toga: Pannam, from Panis, bread, Cofan, Caseus, cheese; the Adjective Bien, is plainly borrowed from the French, and signifies Good or Well. Cove, or Cuffin, are the general names for a Man; but by adding Bien, or Quire, which is, wicked, or knavish; Cove will stand either for an honest Man, or a Justice of the Peace.

THIS

THIS cant of the gypsies I soon grew a perfect master of, as well as of all their customs and manners, and could Mill, Maunder, Plant, and cut the bien whids with the best of them; but my roving fancy would not suffer me to continue long at any time, and I grew not only tired of my doxy in particular, but of the whole gang, and resolved to betake myself to a new trade. Having acquired a competent share of boldness, I began to travel the country and beg by myself; but soon thought my time passed very uncomfortably without a companion, all creatures coveting society, but more especially man; at length, I found one to my wishes, whose long practice in the trade had gained him so much skill as to be able to furnish me with the knowledge of any thing belonging to the liberal art of begging. We strait betook ourselves to the boozing-ken, or ale-house, and, having bubbled rumly, we concluded an everlast-

ing friendship. Then did he recount to me what was most worthy of observation in the profession. First, He tuned my voice to that pitch which might most of all raise compassion : next, he instructed me in what form of prayer I was to make my addresses on different occasions, varying according to the humour of the persons I begged of, which I might gather from their habit and gesture. Then he told me when we came to London, he would bring me acquainted with the p'aces and times there that were most fit for our purpose ; but began his instructions as we travelled along : you ought not, said he, to be too importunate with some, always wishing well, and loudly praying for the health and safety, estate, and limbs of such as deny you alms ; but more especially when they do not, be sure to bless their worships, or good mistresses, begging Heaven to reward them for what they had done here upon earth. If any,

con-

continued he, should pity your nakedness, and cloath you in garments without holes, you must wear them no longer than while you are in the donor's sight, reserving your rags to re-invest yourself, and sell the other, as unfit and scandalous to your profession. We are never, said he, to beg far from one another, and at nights we will faithfully share our gains. Then he informed me how to make all seeming sores and lamenesses; and how to contrive places in the tatters and rags for private conveyance. If you see a door open, says he, go boldly in, and, if you meet any in your way, then, in a very submissive manner, implore their help in relieving your great necessities, if it be but with any thing of the smallest value, one half-penny, farthing, or a broken crust, pretending not to have eat a morsel in two days; but, if the passage be clear, whip up what comes nearest to hand.

HE next told me, that I must be sure to rise very early in the morning, that those who passed by might suppose I had no other lodging, but what a bulk or a gateway afforded; that very often procuring relief from pitiful-hearted people. When it grows dusk, if you meet a man by himself, you may accost him first in a supplicating posture, till you come near enough to knock him down with a truncheon, which you must still have concealed about you for that purpose: this may be done very securely, and many times produces good booty.

FULL fraught with these, and many more useful precepts, which my learned friend delivered to me, we proceeded on our journey; but had not gone very far before we were surprized by the Constable, as two sturdy vagrants, and both soundly whipped; a bad handsel in my new calling! To avoid this danger for the
future,

future, we missed all the towns of any considerable note in our way, and only frequented the villages. Many petty rogueries we committed as we passed along, but none worth troubling the reader with, unless the following may divert him.

TRAVELLING the field-way, we stumbled on a Tinker and his trull, lying by a hedge-side, I could not tell what to make of them at first, they lay so still, but with much pulling and shaking they awaked. I asked them what they lay there for? They answered me, that they had been lately bitten by a serpent, in a place adjacent, a most powerful creature of a vast body, which had bit several people besides themselves: this seemed very strange to us, who had heard no report of it; to be short, I desired them to shew us the place where he was to be found, which they readily assented to, and brought

us

us to an ale-house, the sign of the serpent, where a cup of double-brewed beer was sold, and humming liquor it was. The people of the house liked the Tinker and his female comrade well enough, but would not admit us into a room, 'till we had shewn that we had got the cole, that is, money about us; for indeed our vestments were like the sweepings of the Rag-merchant's yard; but when we were once entered we drank so stiffly that we presently laid the woman asleep again: the Tinker still bore up tightly, but before madam had slept long, she started out of her chair, and, pulling up her petticoats, in our presence, pissed in the middle of the room, and then sat herself down again, not yet awake; this action could not but produce much laughter in my comrade and myself. At last the Tinker fell asleep too, and then we began to think how we might make something of them; we ransacked their pockets, but found little there;

there ; when afterwards searching the woman in a private place, between her pocket and placket, we there discovered something very considerable ; which done, we resolved to leave them, but first tied a pewter-pot to each of their girdles behind, to which we fixed a label, and so marched off. The host seeing us go out of the doors with more than ordinary speed, ran into the room where the Tinker and his lady were, and presently waked them, telling them we were gone. Hearing this, they hastily started up, and ran reeling to overtake us : the master of the house seeing his pots dangling at their breech, ran likewise after them, crying, “ Stop them, stop them, stop the thievish Tinker, and stop the whore with my pot ! We were wiser than to stay to hear how the Tinker and his trull came off, but directed our course for London, the out-cry of mine host of the serpent presently alarmed his neighbours, who, joining with him, soon
 seized

feized the Tinker and his Mort, and carried them back again, which gave us an opportunity to make our escape. The lines that were on the label we put to the Tinker's pot, to the best of my remembrance, were these :

*Your serpent only stings, or bites so deep,
To numb the sense, and lay men fast asleep :
But wit can sharper bite. I'll say no more,
You've paid for sleeping ; now pray pay
the score.*

Those on the woman's pot as follow :

*'Twas not the serpent, but strong beer that
stung,
The vent being stoppt, the drink work'd thro'
the bung.*

I HAD like to forgot another passage that happened on the road ; beating the hoof we overtook a cart, in which were
a squa-

a squadron of the Tatterdemalion regiment; some pretendedly blind, others with their legs tied up in slings; a third sort with the dead palsy all over one side; a fourth so lame as if they had never been stung with sinews. We fell into discourse with them, and asked them whither they were bound, thus carted? They answered, every one for his country, we have already been jerked at the whipping-post, and now enjoy the benefit of a pass. The surly rogue of a carter, observing us talking to his passengers, Why, how now, gentlemen, said he, how did you drop out of the cart's tail? What do you go on foot and your brethren ride? By no means, pray ease your legs, come, I will lend you a hand. I was just about to make a reply, when a fellow passed by, who was acquainted with the carter, and asked him; What he was going to do with those cripples? I am going, said he, by order of the Mayor and Corporation, to Killum, a town, it seems, on the borders of Oxfordshire.

fordshire. Hearing this, I knew not what to think on it, but, consulting the aspect of the carted crew, I discovered a strong sense of their danger in every face, and perceived that their thoughts were wholly employed upon their escape, which they soon put in execution : for forthwith the strings were cut that tied up their legs, and down they slipped silently out of the cart, one after another, for fear of a discovery ; the blind could see their way, and the paralytic ran as fast as bucks. The fellow drove on still, not immediately missing his company ; but at length, turning about, he saw one running this way, another that, a third hiding himself in a bush, and all dispersed : harkee, harkee, said he, are you running from honesty ye made such haste ; I could hear one distinctly answer him, No, firrah, but we are running from such a murderous rogue as you ; Did not you tell your friend, just now, that you were going to kill us ? The

Carter,

carter, furly as he was, could not help laughing at their mistake; and whoever had seen the various postures these impostors put themselves in, through their causeless fear, could not but have joined with him in it. This mistake puts me in mind of one of the same kind, but whose catastrophe was more fatal, that happened during the time of the Irish rebellion. A Protestant trooper meeting a scullogue, or a countryman, in the height of the massacre, demanded of him from whence he came? The poor Irishman answered, from Killvanium; he then asked whither he was going? To Killmore, said he, these are two towns not a great way asunder: No, by G—d, replied the soldier, you shall kill no more, and so pistoled him on the spot.

BUT to return: my company and I, as soon as we came to London, crossed the water, and went to visit his old friends

in Kent-street; where he presently fell to work to put himself in an equipage, fit for the employment we were engaged in. He had no Occasion to alter his habit, but he wanted some climes, that is, according to the beggar's nomenclator, counterfeit sores; and, in an hour's time, by the assistance of some of the fraternity, he had such a leg as would shock any one to look at; which they made in this manner: they took unslaked lime and soap, mingled with the rust of old iron, these being well tempered together, they spread thick upon two pieces of leather, and applied to his leg, binding it very hard, which, in a short time, so fretted the skin, that the flesh appeared all raw; then they rubbed it over with blood, and, when that was dry, the leg looked black, and was to be seen through four or five holes in dirty clouts. This one would think no garb to make love in, yet my friend had very soon got his doxy, with a couple of children,

children; one to carry in her arms, and the other to lead. Now away we all went to Moorfields; he would have made me a clime too, but I had no stomach to accept of his kindness. Coming into the fields, he planted me in a convenient place, the doxy with her lullaby-cheats in another, and himself in a third; we were not to be far distant, that one might catch the others maunding at the rebound. I diligently observed all that was done by my very honest friend, for my own information. One would have sworn he had been really and absolutely lame; for, being about to lie down, he slid to the earth by his staff, and, as soon as he was on the ground, distorted his countenance in such a manner, and poured forth such lamentable complaints, with such earnest prayers to all tender-hearted Christians, as would have raised compassion in the most obdurate. I knew not how to tune my voice, for listening to him, which he observing,

H 2

would

would hold up his stick at me, when nobody was near, to put me in mind of my duty. Night approaching, we left off begging, resolving to make ourselves glad with what we had got : in the way home, I saw a very fine piece of beef lying on a butcher's stall, the woman, who should have been looking to her shop, was telling a gossip's tale to her neighbour, so earnestly, that I thought I might seize my prey, without her knowing any thing of the matter : so I boldly snatched it up, which a person observing, in the opposite house, ran after me, and soon laid his unrighteous paws upon me. I was immediately brought back to the butchers, who was so wise, forsooth, that she would not receive stolen goods, though they were her own, and so enraged, that I must forthwith go before the Justice, where my accusation was aggravated by many feigned circumstances, as that I had been observed to be several times lurking about the door,

was

was known to be an old offender, though but a young lad, and that she verily believed, nay, could almost take her oath, that I was the person who stole a loin of veal from her about a fortnight before. Down-cast eyes, and a pitiful countenance, were all the rhetoric I used in my own defence, which the merciful Justice perceiving, they were so prevalent as to gain some favour from him; for asking the woman what she valued her beef at, and she replying that she would not have abated a farthing of five shillings. “Take heed, said he, good woman, what you say, for, should you swear this, it were enough to hang him. O Lord! marry forbid, cried she, I would not hang him for the world. Then, said his Worship, you must prize it at ten-pence:” with which the woman being content, the beef was conveyed into the Magistrates kitchen, and my mittimus made for Newgate.

BUT madam, now thinking she might receive her goods again, without any danger, demanded her beef of the Justice, he told her he would buy it of her, and asked what he must give her for it? She told him five shillings, she could not afford it under indeed. "Why, how now, hufswife, hufswife, said he, did you not swear it was worth but ten-pence; and so you now talk of five shillings? A meer cheat, an extortioner! make her mittimus, speaking to his Clerk;" this so terrified the ignorant woman, that she begged his Worship, with a piteous tone, not to send her to prison, and he might do what he pleased with her. Whereupon the Justice looking stedfastly at her, and perceiving her to be a good pretty woman, smiled, yet seemed to reprove her sharply, and at last pretending he had something to say to her that he would not have every one hear, he took her into a back parlour, where they had not continued long together,

ther, before she came out, and openly declared, that she would never desire to have more justice done her, than his good Worship had shewn her. And I understood afterwards, that she was so well pleased with what he had said and done, that she sent him a dozen bottles of French wine for a present, and came to sup with him upon her own flesh. In the mean time, I wished them both choaked, for never did poor Papist endure severer penance for eating flesh on a Good-Friday than I for coveting this; (I have loved capon the better for it ever since :) for I was no sooner got into the street, but I had an hundred people about me, crying, Which is the young rogue? This, this, cried a journeyman butcher, when, pretending to lay his hand on my shoulder, he gave me a most terrible nip by the ear, which made me roar out so loudly, and unexpectedly, that my gentleman-usher, who was leading me by the arm to the chequer inn
in

in Newgate-street, starting, let go his hold. There was no dallying with so fair an opportunity ; fear, and the love of sweet liberty, so winged my feet that I was soon got out of their reach, the Harmanbeck, or Constable, unable to follow himself, with a ton of guts before him, set a pack of young yelping curs after me, but they presently lost scent, and so I escaped for this time.

THE next day I went into Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, where, meeting with some of the ragged regiment, I singled out two or three, with whom I picked up a few pence at nine-holes, and at night was taken by them to their rendezvous in Broad St. Giles's ; here we had a grand supper provided, with wine, beer, and other strong liquors ; every man, when we began to be merry, boasting of his iniquity ; but nothing shocked me so much, as a story a young fellow told of his having napt a silver

ver spoon that day from a charitable gentlewoman, who took him into her house, seeing him look as if he was sick, and when she had given him some hot broth, a good dinner, and six-pence in his pocket, the ungrateful villain, in return, piked off with her spoon. As I looked on this as a base piece of ingratitude, I could not but tacitly, within myself, both condemn and abhor such society, remembering, from the little I had learned at school, those words of Juvenal;

Ingratos ante omnia pone Sodales.

Of all persons we should most shun the ungrateful.

NOR could I forbear reading a public lecture on this vice: What, said I, shall we find gratitude in beasts, as in the lion that was healed by Andronicus in the wood, which afterwards saved his preserver's life in the Ampitheatre; and yet shall
not

not we admit this virtue to our hearts. I have somewhere read of an asp that was kept and nourished by an husbandman at his own table, who daily fed her there; at last she brought forth two young ones, one of which poisoned the husbandman's son; the old one, as my author affirms, in the sight of the father, killed the offender; and, as if ashamed of its ingratitude, departed the house with the other, and was never seen after. I would have proceeded, but they told me, I was enough to corrupt any society, and they would have no man of my morals in their company: so I was forced to hold my tongue.

ONE day, as I was begging more fervently than usual, having indeed had very ill success all the morning, and my guts now beginning to grumble towards noon, it was my good fortune to be taken notice of by a good substantial tradesman, who seemed to be extraordinarily pleased with
my

my person and behaviour, and therefore asked me many questions, as whence I came? What were my parents? And what I intended to do? To all which I answered with well-contrived forgeries, and such as gave him great satisfaction; whereupon he bid me follow him, which I did accordingly to his own house, which was a very large and handsome one; here he presented me to his wife, my intended mistress, telling her his resolution of entertaining me in his service; "Bless me, said she, from what dunghill, sweetheart, didst thou take him? This thing dressed up in fippets, this scarecrow? What shall I call him?" For it is certain that I had no cloaths on but what were rather fit to dung the earth, or be sent to the paper-mills, and, for ought I know, my present lucubrations may be penned upon part of my former habiliments. "Well, said my master, rest yourself satisfied, since it is my pleasure to have him taken into the family,

family, the lad hath something very promising in his countenance." Hereupon he ordered me to be stripped, and well washed ; in the mean time cloaths were provided for me, a suit of one of his apprentices. A large vessel, as big as Cornelius's tub, was filled with water to bathe me in, and so cunningly placed by the maids, though privately, that they might see me all over naked. It was my good luck to spy my mistress, who had placed herself in a secret corner to see me dismantled ; and, after I was washed, she was pleased to commend the whiteness of my skin, and the just proportion of my limbs, and I afterwards found that she had discovered some charms in me that strangely tickled her fancy ; for I was then a stubbed full-grown lad. Being now clothed, and raised to this unexpected good fortune, I was not a little puffed up, however I resolved to carry myself discreetly, lest I should overthrow the state

I was

I was in, not yet thoroughly settled. Wherefore I behaved very respectfully to my master, and served him as punctually as I could, endeavouring that my service should requite his favours as far as my abilities would permit me ; for, as I have observed before, I had, in the beginning of my life, a deep sense of gratitude.

My endeavours were not only to please my master, but my mistress likewise, being so very diligent in the meanest offices, that I was ready to perform the part of a chamber-maid. The maid servants I also obliged by doing their duty, making the fires, washing the kitchen, and cleaning the windows. I took care to bear no tales, taking this for an undeniable good maxim, that nothing more recommends a servant than a silent tongue, and a complaisant carriage. My master, sometimes a little out of humour, would find some slight fault with me, but I never made

any reply, knowing, that what I might alledge in my just vindication, would serve only to aggravate his passion, which would the more easily subside, if left only to the operation of his own good-nature. To try my fidelity, he would sometimes leave a six-pence upon the counter, or in the window, as if forgot ; but I was too cunning to be caught so. One day, sending me out to buy something, instead of a shilling, among other money, he gave me a piece of gold ; I took no notice of it then, but going a little way, I came running back, quite out of breath, to restore the gold : these, and some other things of the like kind, made him stand amazed at my seeming honesty. A strange alteration you will say ; but all this was only to gain the more reputation, by which most men have the better opportunity to cheat. It is true, I underwent a great deal of pain, and had my patience often tried to the height ; yet I was well rewarded in
the

the end, and might have lived comfortably had not the baseness of my nature prompted me to abuse the kind gifts of providence. I had so much the good opinion of my master, that he raised me from one step to another; and, not understanding arithmetic, he caused a master to come home to instruct me in it, to capacitate me to keep his books, which was at that time the height of my ambition; the Devil suggesting to me, that I should then have it in my power to make my own fortune at his cost, notwithstanding my former sentiments of gratitude.

BEING arrived at this high station, as I then thought it, the better to colour one vice I added another to it, that of Hypocrisy, pretending to be a most religious independent: I omitted no opportunity of going to their meetings; this riveted me in the good man's affections, especially when he heard me, upon all occasions,

railing at steeple-houses, as they call churches; and tearing the bishop's lawn sleeves to rags; saying, they were remnants of the whore of Babylon's smock. I would pray mornings and evenings so loud, so late, and so early, that the neighbours could hardly sleep for me, much less those of our own family: notwithstanding all this piety, not a day passed wherein I cheated not my master.

How much did I fondly deceive myself, thinking I was secure, because no mortal eye discerned my iniquity: but, gentle reader, be not thus cheated, for assure yourself, that there is no darkness so thick which the All-seeing and eternal eye cannot penetrate.

Cernit Deus omnia vindex.

A PASSAGE remarkable I have read in Erasmus, to this purpose, concerning a young

young gentleman, tempted by a wanton lady, who used this expression as his last and best refuge. "Art thou not ashamed to do that in the sight of thy Maker, and his Holy Angels, which thou art ashamed to do in the sight of men?"

C H A P. II.

JEREMY becomes acquainted with several lewd apprentices. What trade they drove together, and the various ways they took to rob and defraud their masters.

I WAS as officious at home as I was a stranger to all company abroad, never stirring out but upon my master's business, 'till our next neighbour's man intruded himself into my acquaintance; and, by degrees, so far insinuated himself into my affections, that I suffer'd myself in a manner to be wholly ruled by him. Meeting him one day abroad, he would not be denied, but I must needs drink a glass of wine with him, and so he conducted me to a tavern, where the drawer, he told me, was his friend. After many kind compliments had passed, he ordered a pint of canary, for I had told him I was a great admirer of that liquor; whilst the young fellow was gone for it, my neighbour began to tell me

me what a mighty honest man this Ralph the drawer was, and he very soon gave us a proof of it; for, immediately after, I heard him cry at the bar, score a pint of white wine in the rose; so there was eighteen-pence we had for a shilling. When this pint was out, sack not being a liquor to sit by, we called for a pint of red-port, which our friend brought us, and, withal, a bottle of French claret in his cod-piece, which, putting upon the table, now, gentlemen, said he, drink at your pleasure, you shall not want for liquor, my lads, when that is gone I can bring in another when I come to snuff your candles. This somewhat amazed me at first, but my neighbour Thomas told me, it was what was very frequently done by drawers to their friends, and he, and two or three more, have made themselves sometimes drunk, for six-pence a-head, with French wine, even burgundy and champaign, liquor that I had never before heard the names of.

“ COME

“ COME, come, said he, you are but a novice yet ; but if you will be governed by me, I will teach you how to make servitude sit light upon you, by making you live as jovially as your master, without any of his carking or caring to buy necessaries, pay rent, satisfy creditors, and a thousand other disturbances that he and his friends were strangers to,”

I ASKED him how this could be done he answered, If I would swear to be secret and faithful, and become a brother of the society, he would not only tell me how all this might be done, but bring me to the places where those jolly blades, the fellowship apprentices were used to meet, and where I should find more agreeable company than could be met with at a conventicle.

I was not long in consenting to this proposal, rejoicing exceedingly at this blessed
 oppor.

opportunity, as I thought it, of sailing into the ocean of delight, and being permitted into such grand company. Very eager I was to get him to inform my judgment in what at present I understood not, but did not doubt but that in a little time I should be as forward as the foremost in all practicable roguery. First, then he told me, that I must be sure to insinuate myself into the maid's favour, that, when occasion required, she might let me have the key of the street-door, or else sit up for my return, making her sensible that she did not break her rest for nothing. If she be modest, (continued he) which is indeed a thousand to one, you must only kiss her, and let all your expressions favour of Platonic love, or give her hopes of having you for a husband, when you are a little settled in the world; if she be bucksome, or wantonly inclined, she will never be put off with hopes, promises, vows, and such windy stuff, wherefore you must
 kiss,

kiss, hug, and embrace her, telling her how dearly you love her, and then fall to something else ; she may put you off at first with a pish, and a fie, and a pray be civil, indeed I will not ; but if you take her at her word, she will never have an opinion either of your understanding or your manhood.

Now for the company I will bring you into, they are no less than linen and woollen-draper, mercers, silkmen, hosiers, haberdashers, grocers, goldsmiths, and toymen ; to which are added, a drawer and an oilman ; one to furnish us with good liquor, and the other to prepare our palates for it. There are several trades, said he, that are of no use to our commonwealth, such as pewterers, braziers, plumbers, &c. their goods being, for the most part, not portable, and we want only those that may fit our own persons, be agreeable to our appetite, or easily turned into cash. Every
one

one brings his several commodities to the place of meeting, and there we exchange or barter one for another; that is, for what each person respectively wants, either to supply his own occasions, or those of his mistress; for, it is to be supposed, that every one of us has his mort, as she is called in the beggar's language, (ay, thought I, I could have told you that) now when such a one is procured she must be maintained, though our masters wives and children suffer for it at home; but you must take care, said he, of not taking too much of one commodity at a time, for that may betray you.

ALL this I liked wonderfully well, and as I had been a thief already myself, I was pleased to find there were some such in an higher station of life, and indeed I was convinced afterwards, that no degree is exempt from the Professors of the same art, and ~~that~~ not only commissioners and ministers

ministers of state were thieves, but even kings and emperors had been the greatest robbers and plunderers in the world. Pleased with the thoughts of thriving in the way that I had always an inclination to, I promised my friend Thomas, that I would certainly meet that day se'nnight, at the place appointed, and so we parted. Coming home, I immediately put the precepts my friend had given me in practice; first, taking notice what goods we had the greatest quantity of, and whatsoever commodity my master forgot we had in the shop, that I secured as my own; and I would sometimes try him in this manner; "Sir, said I, there was a person to day enquiring for such a thing, and I could not find it; perhaps then he would say, we have none." This answer was very agreeable to my purpose. Having taken a thorough view of the shop and warehouse, I saw so many ways of advantage, if assisted by a cleanly conveyance, that

that I could snip as well as the best of them.

THE next thing I had to do, was to ingratiate myself with the upper maid, who was one of them that lay concealed to see me washed in the tub, and, as she afterwards confessed to me, took a liking to me from that hour. It required no long time to bring her to a compliance; but, before any business could be done, she made me agree to the following preliminaries.

I. THAT, if she proved with child, I should marry her.

II. THAT I should devote myself entirely to her service, and to no others.

III. THAT we should make use of all opportunities to enjoy one another.

IV. THAT, to prevent discovery, we should often quarrel before people, in order to our better agreement in private.

* SHE acted her part so well in pursuance of this last article, that she would often throw plates or bones at my head as we sat at dinner, and our seeming feuds were carried to that height, that our master was sometimes called down to part us.

BUT so affable was she, when, by ourselves, that she swore there was nothing that she could do, in her power, to please or serve me. The night being come when I was to meet according to promise, I acquainted my Phillis with my intention of going out at eleven of the clock when my master and mistress were gone to bed, and desired she would sit up to let me in, which she readily consented to, after having an assurance from me, that I was not to meet any other woman.

THE

THE first time I went to the brotherhood, I thought there was no occasion to carry any goods with me, but to see how they managed matters. Being come to the house, I was introduced by my neighbour Thomas to the society, in a private back-room. I was amazed to see such variety of wares as were lying on a long table, silks, stuffs, cloth, linen, woollen, stockings, ribbons, hoods, handkerchiefs, &c. Some of the company came to me and welcomed me as a brother, drinking to me out of a large bowl of hot punch.

THE Merchants being now almost all met, they began to truck with each other for what they thought most convenient for themselves or their friends; they offered me my choice of any thing there, but I told them I had brought nothing with me to make an exchange: for that matter, they said, my credit was good, and credit was the soul of commerce, tell-

ing me they should have occasion to make use of me in the same way without all doubt. I took for the present, only a trifle that I thought might be acceptable to the maid, I was going to call her, at home. She accepted of my kindness with much gratitude, especially as it was accompanied with many expressions and protestations of a never-dying affection, and was mighty ready to make me a return of all that was at her command, as I found by her griping my hand, her palpitation of heart, short breathing, and rolling eyes, I quickly guessed at her meaning; and having convinced her by some certain proofs, that I had been in no other woman's company, I would have then gone to rest in my own bed; but nothing would satisfy her, but that we must be bedfellows that night, although she lay in a truckle in the same room with our master and mistress. I desired her to go up first, and that I would follow, if she would put
out

out her candle and leave the door open. By that time I thought she was in bed, I began to creep up the stairs, which creaked at every step as if they had conspired to betray me, when I came to the last stair, I raised my foot, being fearful of making any noise, thinking there had been another, which mistake brought it down with such force, that it made the whole house echo. My master had that night taken a more than ordinary dose of good old port, so that the noise awaked not him; but my mistress imagining thieves were broke into the house, endeavoured to rouse her husband, but in vain, therefore she thought it best to lie still, and expect the event. In the mean time I lay perdue, not stirring till I imagined my mistress was asleep again; my damsel concluding I durst not venture farther after the accident that had befallen me, composed herself to rest. Finding, after a considerable time, all things still and quiet, I entered the cha-

ber, which was as dark as I could wish it, but I happened to grope the contrary way, and, in a low voice, cried, Where are you ; Here, here, said my mistress, in a whispering tone : minding from whence the sound came, as near as I could, I directed my foot-steps to that place. The same words being repeated, conveyed me exactly to that side of the bed where my mistress lay ; taking her about the neck, I kissed her a thousand times, not perceiving my mistake, then made all the haste I could to undress myself, which was done in an instant ; but when I had opened the cloaths to get into bed, Hold, said she, I have a bed-fellow already, what I have suffered you to do was to make trial of you, and find out what you intended to do. Get you to your own bed to-night, and I shall talk farther with you to-morrow. The reader may easily imagine the surprize I was in, I durst make no reply, but betook myself to my own chamber, thorough possession

fessed with fear and shame, tumbling and tossing all night, without taking one wink of sleep.

I WAS up early in the morning, and shewed myself more than ordinarily diligent. But, Lord! what confusion was I in, when I saw my mistress come into the shop! I made an hundred pretences to stoop behind the counter, and rectified disordered wares, and so busy was I with my back towards her, that she could scarce get a sight of me. At length she came up close to me, and, turning me about, Indeed, said she, you take too much pains, you are too laborious, fair and soft, there is a great deal of time yet to-night, desist a little, I must have a word with you. Then first presuming to look in her face, how was I rejoiced when I received an alluring smile from her instead of a frown; this armed me with confidence enough to speak to her.

MADAM,

MADAM, said I, I do with shame confess myself guilty of a great error, but hope you will mitigate my crime, when you consider it was the effect of youth, and hot blood, provoked by an almost irresistible temptation. My mistress admired to hear me talk in this style, but laying aside her wonder, she bad me tell her the whole truth, and what contract Tabitha, for that was the servant's name, and I had entered into. I was willing to excuse my sweetheart; and so equivocated in my answer, saying, That I only designed to surprize her unawares. This sophistry of mine did not in the least prevent my mistress's prying wit from searching into the truth; she told me she knew all, though I endeavoured to conceal it, and desired I would withdraw my affections from Tabitha, for she intended very shortly to separate us; but if I was so amorously inclined as not to be satisfied without a female, I might certainly make choice of

one

one whose birth and fortune might give a better relish to my pleasures than the fusty embraces of a chamber-maid; having said thus much, she took her leave for the present.

FIVE-AND-FORTY years had not so totally destroyed her beauty, but that there still remained the ruins of a very good face: her birth, though of great extraction, and which she valued herself much upon, had little in it to recommend her to me; but the wealth of which she had the disposal, by my master's consent, and some that was otherwise her own, whispered more than common felicity to me. Her last words made a deep impression upon me, for they were not so enigmatically delivered, but I could easily interpret them to my own advantage: and I resolved not to be hard-hearted, so left time to bring the business to a conclusion.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

What devices he found out to cheat his master, and what ways he had to spend his money lavishly, in idle company, &c.

THE time being come when I was, the second time, to meet with my new brethren, the fellowship apprentices, I went prepared with such commodities as I could conveniently carry with me. Seeing me arrived well-fraught, the merchants presently clapt me on board, resolving not to let any of my goods lie long upon my hands. Our truck being made to our mutual contents, every man took his glass and pledged his fellow, which was the prelude to a very good supper, at which we had variety of dishes, nor, to make the entertainment complete, did we want for companions of the female sort, with whom we retired by turns into a
con-

convenient bed-chamber; when supper was over, and every one quite sated with these pleasures, we returned to our respective habitations.

THIS trade we carried on, while our masters dreamed not of our night-revelings: what we spent on ourselves was not comparable to the extravagant expences our ladies put us upon, which were so great, that, though they made me rack my invention to supply their pretended necessities, yet all my endeavours could not answer their expectations. I had taken one of these gentlewomen a lodging, and, upon the bare promise of a whore, that she would prove constant to me, allowed her a weekly pension; notwithstanding which, I never came to receive a particular favour; but I must make a return of some such trifle, as a scarf, a ring, a piece of silk for a petticoat, or the like. If I failed at any time I was severely checked,

perhaps

perhaps denied our accustomed familiarity, and my courtship derided, madam telling me, I was an empty fellow, that I bestowed my favours on others, and that made me so sparing to her. She would sometimes tell me, that she had refused several very considerable matches merely for my sake, but she now found herself deluded by me, and would bear it no longer, but let my master know all my proceedings ; this, it may be well supposed, extremely terrified me, and kept me in such awe that I was obliged to do whatever she would have me ; but when I was provoked sometimes so far as to set her at defiance, then would she lower the tone of her voice, and coming to, by degrees, would call me smock faced little rogue, pat me upon the cheek, and cry, Come hither, firrah, I know what you want : and this coaxing soon overpowered me, and made me as fond as ever. To speak the truth, this whore had beauty enough

to allure, and cunning enough to deceive any man.

WHEN I first made myself acquainted with her, I thought my happiness not inferior to the grand Signior's ; for though he had the choice of several hundred women in his seraglio, yet, I believed my Carabella (so was she called) surpassed them all, and had every charm and perfection of the whole sex. She was fair, well-featured, sprightly and young, four dangerous endowments, when accompanied by wit, dissimulation, craft and impudence, with a covetous desire of enjoying what others possess. She could not but be well instructed in her trade, her mother having been an eminent bawd from the time she brought her into the world, and almost in her cradle had devoted her to the service of Venus. She was scarce thirteen years of age, but her beauty was greatly admired, and brought her several

humble servants ; but her mother watched her so narrowly, that none of them, she resolved, should taste her fruit unless they bought the tree at a high price, and she observed that her daughter's natural policy was such, that, with a little instruction, she would keep up the market, and soon command the purses as well as the hearts of those that paid their devoirs to her. Her design proved as fortunate as she could have wished ; for among the many who languished for her, they found one who was vastly rich, and entirely captivated with her charms.

THIS old gentleman was so infatuated by the witchcraft of her lovely face, that notwithstanding he knew the profession and practice of the mother, the daughter's seeming innocence made him resolve upon proposing marriage to her ; we may easily suppose they were not long in giving their consent to so advantageous an offer, but as
soon

soon as they had drawn the old man in to make a comfortable settlement, rings, jewels, and rich cloaths were provided, and the nuptials consummated in due form. Carabella was now brought home to his house, and entertained in the most splendid manner, her husband, for a short time, thinking himself the happiest of mortals, and but a short time it was, for scarce was the honey-moon over but she began to follow the dictates of her wanton and amorous disposition, and under pretence of visiting this friend, and that cousin, she made frequent sallies abroad with some of his former gallants, who were much younger than her husband, and better qualified to satisfy her craving desires.

HER spouse could not but be very uneasy at the freedoms she took as well as at her profuse expences, both which he was not only resolved to abridge, but divested her of

the ornaments of her rings and jewels, which so exasperated her that she vowed revenge, and made it her whole study to torment him. There being a great disproportion in their years, she contemned him from the first, but now she began to hate him heartily, contriving all manner of ways to satisfy herself, and plunder him; and she could not want for good counsel as long as the old experienced bawd, her mother, was alive.

THE old dotard being out of all patience, when she returned one evening from one of her frolicksome jaunts, took her roundly to task, sharply reproving her for her ingratitude to him, who had made a gentlewoman of her, and taken her from worse than the dunghill, a common bawdy house, he said he had sufficient intelligence of the debauched manner in which she spent her time when out of his sight, her trips to the inns of court, asking, who she

she was at law with, and whether the two Irish bullies she treated the other day at the Mulberry-garden were to be witnesses for her? Running on in this manner 'till he was quite out of breath, he was forced to conclude his wormwood lecture by a sudden fit of coughing: Madam, fearing he was straining for more of that unpleasant stuff with which he had already too much offended her ears, left him half-strangled with his phthisic.

AT the same instant, a neighbour of their's came in to make them a visit; she was a gentlewoman of great virtue, and good manners, who, seeing him in that condition, said to him, How is it, I pray, Sir; I am extremely concerned to see you so much disordered. You lie, you lie, you whore, said he, not distinguishing the gentlewoman's voice from his wife's, see me so much disordered! I believe you would be glad to see me quite indeed, that

is, you wish me at the Devil, you strumpet, you cheat, you infernal hag, no name is bad enough for you ! And then coughed again so violently, that it was in vain to speak to him ; but when the fit was a little abated, she resolved to say something, though her amazement to hear what she neither deserved or expected would hardly give her leave. At last she plucked up a spirit, and asked him, why he should use such opprobrious language to her, and attempt to stain her honour, which was hitherto spotless and undefiled ? She said, her behaviour had ever been so far from what he would represent it. that she had been looked upon as an example for the best of her neighbours to follow and imitate. Let me alone, hussy, replied the old man, to made an example of you, and you shall have followers enough when you and the old bawd, your mother, are carted. Why, who am I, said the gentlewoman, that you dare talk thus to me ?

Who

Who are you? answered he, you are touchwood, tinder, gunpowder, wildfire, and what is worse than all, my wife.

By this the gentlewoman really concluded he was mad, and lest he might do her some mischief in his frenzy, was preparing to slip out of the room, just as his cough left him, and he recovered his sight, by which he perceived his mistake, and made all the apologies that his confusion and the wrath he was in would permit him. His Rib all this time was laughing behind the hangings; but, when the visitant was gone, and she heard her husband coming to seek for her, she slipped into the bed-chamber, and placed herself upon her knees in a praying posture, and begged of Heaven to soften her husband's heart, and undeceive him, that he might know her false accusers, and be satisfied of her innocence.

THE

THE cuckold listening awhile, and surprized to see her at prayers, which was indeed the first time she had ever thought of any such thing, he was so overjoyed, that, not minding what disturbance he gave to her pretended devotion, he rushed towards her, and clasping her in his arms, And art thou then innocent, my duck, said he, art thou this religious saint, O ! how hast thou been abused ! I will never more believe what any one shall say against thee. In short, he gave her to understand, that he had employed persons to observe her conduct ; who, to answer their own bye-ends, he believed, nay, he was assured, he said, had abused both her and him ; that for the time to come he would not admit a jealous thought of her to enter his breast, and to confirm what he had said, he instantly gave her his keys, and trusted every thing he had that was valuable to her care and management.

THE

THE cunning quean would not accept of this kind offer, without much pressing, but at length sealing his pardon with a kiss, an eternal reconciliation seemed to be made between them. For some time she behaved mighty well; but having given her mother a catalogue of all the rich effects in her possession, they contrived ways to convey every thing of value out of the house; then, leaving the deceived cuckold fast asleep in his bed, at five o'clock in the morning she went to a new lodging her mother had provided for her at a distant part of the town, where, changing her name, and never going out but in a mask, and such cloaths as she had never been seen in, whilst she lived with him, she passed undiscovered.

It was at this time my unhappiness to become acquainted with her, by her coming accidentally to buy some wares at our shop, and I being ordered to carry them
home

home to her lodgings. When I waited upon her, she gave me many broad hints of my paying myself in another way than I expected; but, as my master would not be put off without the ready money, I could by no means come into her measures at that time; but the invitations she gave me by her languishing looks, her taking an opportunity to let me see the finest neck and breast in the world, which added to a beautiful face, an easy carriage, and an agreeable humour, were such temptations as flesh and blood could not long resist: so the first opportunity I had, by my master's going out of town, I went to pay my humble respects to her, and was well received; soon struck up a bargain, and swore eternal constancy, the usual oath of young lovers to each other.

THIS whore's extravagance was so great, that all I could procure from the society of apprentices, though I found means to

turn

turn the best part of it into ready money, was not sufficient to content her, so that I was resolved to rob the till, and share a little of my master's money before he had counted it. Several projects I made trial of, but nothing answered my purpose so well as a pair of barber's curling irons, which, by the help of a file, I made slip very easy into the chink, and turn round; the first essay I made gave me great satisfaction, for laying my irons down upon an edge, then turning and opening them wide, I could pinch up two or three shillings at a time, which I continued doing till I had got between twenty and thirty, and sometimes I would take more, as I thought my occasions required.

HAVING now two strings to my bow, the assistance of the society, and produce of my master's money-box, I thought I lived happier than any body; I wanted for nothing; enjoyed my mistress, my bottle, and

and my friendas of ten as I pleased ; that is, without neglecting my business at home ; when I was with my Carabella, nobody was more gallant ; I had sonnets, and amorous poems at my fingers ends ; when, among my drinking companions, nobody more jovial ; I had fifty catches in praise of Bacchus, and to promote drinking, and to shew my wit, and gain the applause of the toppers, I drew the following character of a bottle ;

“ HE is a gentleman, I assure you, who once lived, like a Salamander, in the flames, and had he not been burnt he would never have been found. He is never better than when his breath is stopped ; bury him and you make him quicker : as for his habit, it is ever plain, yet neat ; and, though he is nobly born, he scorns not to wear a green coat without a badge upon it: the greatest injury you can do him is to pick a hole in his coat. Though
he

he wears for the most part one sort of garb, yet is never out of the fashion, always acceptable to the best company, who regard him not for his outward dress but his inward worth : however, his suit is made of admirable stuff, for the outside never grows barer than it was at first, and the lining is the fresher for wearing. So great a value does he set upon his dress, that he would chuse rather to have his brains knocked out than to have a rent in his garment. He wears an alamode hat almost as little, and full as light as a shuttle-cock, which he puts off to none ; but, like a Quaker, when brought before a magistrate, it is taken off for him.

As to his pedigree, it is not easily settled, for he has in him the purest blood of France, is allied to the Portugueze, and Spaniards, whom chiefly he imitates, being upright and stately ; treads for the most part on carpets, and never stirs a-

broad, but when carried, yet full of activity. If he runs fast, and long, the more wind he gets. If he chance to fall, which is seldom, for many look to him, he will be extremely moved, and, contrary to all men, the fuller his belly is, the less hurt he receives. His conditions are a riddle, there is in him pure virtue, and notorious vice; the quintessence of love, and the venom of hatred. He is the beginner and ender of a thousand quarrels in a year; yet is he a mere coward, for he will suffer any man to take him by the nose, and hardly ever broke any one's pate but when company was by. He is engaging in society, and will spend himself to the last drop, if raised by a lady's soft hand. He whets wit, yet dulls it; creates new fancies, but often stupifies; gives the orator a fluent tongue, and makes him speechless. As he helpeth ministers to preach, so he likewise silenceth more than the Spanish inquisition. He can per-

perform wonders, making a faulknor fly high within doors, and a huntsman catch a fox by the fire-side. As to his tenets, whatever he holds he commonly makes good. All tongues court him, but he is too profound for shallow brains to meddle with. He is beloved and relished in all companies; is inwardly acquainted with my Lord Mayor and the Aldermen, and often incorporates with their wives. His kisses are so sweet that the ladies often lick their lips after them, and though his breath be strong, yet it is not offensive. His manners are none of the best, for he lies every night in a tavern, and frequently picks men's pockets, and yet those that are so used by him are the fondest of him. As to his estate, all I can say is, that he carries his all about him, yet he is generally accounted rich. What he hath, he holds upon courtesy; but what he gives to others is held in capite. What he pos-

seffeth is commonly upon sale, and if you purchase him you purchase all."

THIS was not the first specimen I had given my companions of my talents in writing, for some other things I had wrote in prose; and, as I said before, many madrigals and catches in rhyme. I could never endure idleness, but was at all times either writing, contriving, or putting my contrivances in execution, for I thought it better *male agere quam nihil agere*, my brains and hands were continually working, and generally so much to the purpose, that I was esteemed an honest and industrious man at home, and one of the greatest thieves and merriest fellows alive by my companions abroad. But in the height of all this prosperity I was a little soured by our Tabitha's whispering one day in my ear that she found herself with child; this was terrible news, but knowing that vexing does but increase, and not

remedy any trouble, I resolved to bear it patiently, and study for some means to save both our credits. To this end, I framed a letter as from her father in the country, desiring her to come down with all speed, if she was willing to see him alive. This letter, as we had laid the plot between us, she shewed to her mistress, begging leave to pay her duty to her dying father. Our mistress willingly consented thereto, and was glad of this opportunity to part us, for she knew I had a more than ordinary love for her, which she did not at all approve of. Tabitha had stayed as long as possible she could, without a discovery, keeping down her belly with three busks at a time, but now she made haste to rub off. I had provided a midwife for her, at whose house she was safely delivered; but when the farther expence came on of maintaining both woman and child, I began to make severe reflections on the inconvenience that this

momentary slippery pleasure draws a man into, how eager he is upon the first onset, and how soon satisfied ; how oftentimes what was the object of all his joys, turns, in a very short space, to loathing and detestation. Well, I came at last to a resolution of getting rid of this Bar to my other pleasures, and to dispose of the cow and calf together, I told her that I would make up as good a sum of money as I could, and then marry her, upon this condition that she should promise to travel with me wherever I went, which I knew was her only desire, so I informed her of my intention to go to Virginia, and the reasons that induced me to it.

First, THAT her disgrace would not be known there ; *Secondly*, That I should be out of the power of my master ; and, *Thirdly*, That we might soon grow rich, there being great opportunities of making a man's fortune in that country. Besides
I talked

I talked much of the pleasantness of the country, and the great plenty that was there to be met with. Kind Tibatha assented to all I proposed, and told me she was willing to do whatever I required of her. So much complaisance and obedience in a wife made me almost renounce the villainous design I had undertaken; but on the other hand, when I considered what a check she would be to my pleasures, I pushed on with it. So carried her down to Gravesend, where I had agreed with the master of a ship, going to Virginia, to take her and her bastard off my hands; a little before the ship was to sail, I pretended I had left something ashore that I must look after, and would return immediately, upon which I called to a boat passing by, that had company in it, to know if they would set me ashore, which they readily consented to; but when I came on board them I found they were going to London, so I told them I would

would even go thither too, without making any stop by the way ; as soon as I was out of the ship I knew she was to weigh anchor and sail. Thus was I delivered from a trouble and expence that had made me very uneasy ; but there was so much cruelty in the manner of it, that I must own I had tears in my eyes when I came into the wherry that was to carry me to London, and sat there in a very dejected condition ; which a good woman observing, young man, said she, You look very melancholy, it is probable you have taken leave of some dearly beloved friend in that ship, by your looking so much after it. I told her she had guessed right ; and I, said she again, have taken leave of my husband, who is just sailed in another ship before, therefore I have as much cause to grieve as you : but come, be of good comfort, man, friends must sometimes part, and it is better here than at the gallows ; go along

long with me, and we will wash down
sorrow in a glass of generous wine.

UPON this, looking more curiously in
her face, I found it was every way cor-
responding with her jolly temper, she had
a sanguine complexion, with a black rol-
ling eye, piercing and lively, and was, in
short, what none but a very squeamish
fellow could find fault with ; so I even
struck up a bargain with her, and when
we came to Billingsgate, we went together
to the Gun-tavern, and there washed
down sorrow, as she had before advised,
in a glass of good wine, adding thereto a
bit of something to eat ; and here we a-
greed so well, that she consented to let me
have part of her bed that night, which
was to be at an inn, for she was to go the
next morning to her mother's at Barnet :
I will not describe the raptures of that
night, but let the reader imagine every
thing that can satisfy the warmest wishes
of

of two fond lovers, and those are what we enjoy in each others arms. The morning being come we breakfasted together, and then she told me she would not go to her mother, but continue with me as long as she had a penny left, and she had then about thirty pieces of gold about her. Well, said I, my dear, since that is your resolution, a match, and let me be your Steward ; to which she very readily agreed, and put her gold into my hands : for two or three hours I shewed myself very officious in my place, but then considering, that when this money was spent, we should not know what to do with ourselves, I thought it was better for one to want than two ; besides I had lately forfeited on a medlar, and now my stomach began to nauseate it. I pretended an excuse to go down and provide something for dinner; and then took just time enough to write the two following lines, and sent them

them to her by the Chamberlain, instead of taking a formal leave :

*Madam, I'm gone, no wonder, for you know
Lovers encounters are but touch and go.*

AFTER this, I posted away to my friend Ralph at the tavern ; I knew not at first what course I should follow ; but having raised my spirits with a glass of wine, I concluded to hazard my master's good opinion, nay, and my mistress's affection too, which, though at present, it only sinoaked, I might easily divine would have soon burst into a flame. Being before confined to my master's time, I began to consider what a precious thing liberty was, and so resolved to have the full enjoyment of it, having an estate I thought in my pocket ; but as man is a social creature, I thought I should not be near so happy by myself as with a companion, wherefore I sent to an apprentice, my intimate

timate acquaintance, who had been often tempting me to ramble with him. This lad was his master's cashier, which I knew would greatly assist my design. As soon as he appeared, I made him acquainted with my intention of seeing the world; though this had been his own proposal not long before, yet he now seemed a little startled at it: but I soon satisfied all his scruples, by observing to him, what an intolerable thing it was to have our wills enslaved to other men's, since, as well as they, we were created free denizens of the world; that since our great grandfather, Adam, was Emperor of the whole world, we might at least stile ourselves Princes, and therefore debased our birth by a voluntary submission to servitude and slavery.

I HAD no great occasion to enlarge much on this topic, his own inclination sufficiently prompting him to come into my

my way of thinking. So, after a little discourse, we came to a firm resolution of becoming Knights-errant. I advised him to go home forthwith, and bring what cash he had in his custody, which he readily undertook, and indeed brought more than I could have expected, the whole sum was above two hundred pounds; so happy were we in this our first proceeding together.

THUS full fraught with money we went on our adventures, promising ourselves all imaginary delights, without considering of their consequences. We frequented all the places where we supposed pleasure was to be purchased, the chief of these were common brothels, in which we reveled all night, and lay concealed all day, fearing to venture abroad in the light, unless we hired a coach, which we often did, and took a country jaunt, and then when we had eat a good dinner, and

drank plentifully, would find some back-way out of the house, and bilk both my landlord and the coachman, who perhaps was forced to pay part of the reckoning, at least so much as he had had for himself. We would sometimes bilk hackney-coachmen in the streets of London, by jumping out of the coach in the evening when it was dark; but I had like once to have paid dear for an undertaking of this kind; for in getting out of the coach, some how or other, my coat was entangled in one of the wheels, which, by turning about, had made it so fast, that I verily believed my crimes would now be all punished by my being executed on the wheel, which I could not have avoided had I not speedily unbuttoned my coat, and thrown it off. I was unwilling to be discovered by the coachman, by crying out to him to stop, thinking I might recover my coat by degrees, so I ran a long way by the side of the coach, like a running-footman, but
all

all my endeavours proving ineffectual, I was forced at last to cry, Hold Coachman, whereupon he came off his box, and, finding how I had intended to have bilked him, would not untangle my coat 'till I had paid him his hire, after which he gave it into my hands; but, upon his delivering it, he told me, I had paid him, but he had not paid me for my attendance on him, adding moreover, that my waistcoat would not look like a livery unless it were well laced; and with that lashed me very smartly with his whip, which, as I was only in a thin waistcoat, made me cut capers like any French dancing-master.

ANOTHER pastime that my friend and I took much delight in, was to kick old watchmen's lanthorns about the streets, and sometimes score them a little over the Noddles for sleeping on their stands. This foolery we practiced so often, that we

were met with at last, and severely punished for our frolicks.

It happened, that in Pater-noster-row, we found a fellow at noddy on a stall, with his lanthorn and candle by him; we first seized on those, and kicking them into the kennel, prosecuted our abuse on the poor fellow, by giving him two or three good knocks to awaken him; but here we caught a tartar, for thinking him an old decrepit wretch, and one that had little use of his eyes without the help of those in his pocket, we made not that haste we ought to have done, and were overtaken and laid hold of by him, who proved a sturdy young fellow, able to grapple with us both, and kept us fast till more help came, to carry us before his worship the Constable, by whom we were committed to the Compter for rats,

HERE

HERE we were in a peck of troubles, for fear our masters should come to hear where we were : but however we resolved, for the present, to drown all care : in a very short time we found more rats, both male and female, brought in to keep us company : some of the men were all bloody ; the ladies with their hoods, scarfs, and head-cloths all torn, and none of them sober. Damning and cursing were the constant flowers of their rhetoric ; calling for beer and brandy, the chief argument they maintained, and roaring and bellowing in distracted notes all the harmony they made. Though I was wicked enough myself, yet I blessed God that I had not arrived at the height of brutality, to which most of these wretches were got. Whilst in this company I thought myself on the confines of hell. Sin, when disguised under some cloak of decency, appears not so shocking, but when in its own shape, it is enough to

strike horror into any one who is not quite stupified. I was so far from desiring to associate with these hell-hounds, that I knew not which I loathed most, their company, or the prison, which is, I believe, an epitome of hell itself: it is the land of darkness, inhabited by calamity, horror, misery, and despair, a bottomless pit of fraud and confusion, violence and stench. It is the centre of infamy, the destruction of good manners, the sinning-pot of friendship, and a forest of ravenous beasts. Here you may see one weeping, another singing, one sleeping, another swearing, every one variously employed, one eating in a corner, another pissing just by him, and perhaps another lousing him between them.

It is, in short, a tomb to bury men alive in, a wood of woe, a map of misery. It has more diseases than a pest-house, and more stinks than any Lord-Mayor's dog-kennel.

kennel. It is a little common-wealth, though little wealth is common in it. It is as intricate as Rosamond's bower, and as full of meanders and windings, which there is no getting out of, but by the help of a silver clue: as we had the good luck not to be destitute of this, upon paying our fees the next morning, and receiving some good admonitions from the justice, we were discharged.

THIS misfortune, and the terrible examples before us, made us not one jot the more cautious; but as soon as we were at liberty, we went upon the scent for fresh game, and at length fell into the house of mother Crows, formerly famous for the citizens wives who frequented it; and is still, without doubt, one of the genteel-est of the kind, except those that are kept by people of quality; the truth of it is, of all the bawds I know, and that is no small number, she merits the most, tak-
ing

ing great care of the ware she puts into any gentleman's hands, both as to its soundness and make.

As soon as we entered the door, we heard the rustling of silks in sundry places, the ladies, at the sight of a man, skipping like so many conies into their burrows, which piece of seeming modesty, I suppose is practised to set the keener edge upon gentlemen's appetites, for really upon farther trial these modest women are not over squeamishly nice. But to proceed, we were conducted into a large well-furnished room, where wine was brought to us, and something relishing to eat, without our speaking for it, which, it seems, is the custom of the house, no freedoms being allowed 'till a good reckoning is begun; indeed when they brought up a neat's tongue, the waiter asked if we liked that, or a couple of lobsters best, we chose the latter, and soon after the old matron

came

came in herself, and seating herself by me, began immediately to be very impudently acquainted, and chucking me under the chin, called me her smock-faced son; then, taking a glass in her hand, drank the beggar's blessing to us both. Well, children, said she, I know what ye want, and ye shall be satisfied; nature will have its course, and if, in youth, it be stopped, it will but grow the more headstrong. I see by your countenances ye are the sons of mirth and pleasure, and both qualified to come off with honour in an amorous rencountre; I will send those to ye that shall try what metal ye are made of. The old gentlewoman now took her leave, and presently came two young creatures into the room, one seating herself by me, and the other by my friend. At the first view of my doxy, I was most prodigiously well pleased, for she was handsome and well-shaped; but, in a very short time, discover-

vered so much impudence, that it was to me a perfect antidote to lechery.

Ista femina quæ limites vericundiæ, &c.

That woman, who once passes the bounds of modesty, seldom stops till she arrives at the height of impudence.

I MUST needs deal so ingenuously as to own, that, at first, the needle of my microscope was touched with love's loadstone; but, upon a little farther acquaintance, my circumstances were so languid, that if I might have had an hundred pounds, I could have made no push to have entered into her favour; not but that she threw out all that she thought might be allurements: but I looked upon her as a guest fitter for an hospital than a banquet of love, and as one who stood more in need of the surgeon's acquaintance than mine. She had set up upon credit, and contrary to those in all other trades, was undone by having too many customers.

My

My friend, I found, was better pleased with her than I was, so we made an exchange, and I retired with the doxy into another private room ; but here I found madam begin to put on airs of coyness and reserve; she told me she never granted any favours but to persons of distinction, who had patience enough to gain a familiarity with her by a long acquaintance, and to win her good opinion by sincere affection, and promises of a constant friendship ; upon this I pulled out a crown piece, and told her, that nothing could be a greater proof of the sincerity of a man's affection than his parting with his money ; but this she rejected with scorn, saying, whatever I might think of her, she was not reduced to so low a condition, nor was she so mean and mercenary a prostitute as to sell herself at that beggarly price. I must own I was strongly charmed with her person, and therefore taking out another crown, told her, That though
that

that was not a sufficient purchase for so much beauty, it was all I was able to bestow at that time. She now began to soften a little, and so, after some faint struggling, suffered me to accomplish my desires; but I had no sooner made an end of the affair in hand, but up comes a fellow, whose face would have lighted the room, had there been no candle in it, for it appeared like a blazing star, and his nose (for he had miraculously preserved it) was the bushy tail to it. This bravo, laying his hand on his sword, looked fiercer than a Spanish Don, insulting over his Indian slave. Sirrah, said he, thou most audacious villain, blood and thunder! How darest thou, with that smooth face of thine, seduce this lady's virtue, and dishonour me in deluding my wife? Dost thou not expect an annihilation, or at least a dissipation, of that lady-like frame of thine into the minutest atoms? Shall I bear this affront from a beardless boy?

Mitcreant,

Miscreant, defend thy life. With that, going to make a seeming pass at me, I caught up a chair, and received his point in the seat, then following him home, I tumbled him down stairs ; but, not being able to recover myself, fell with him. My comrade, at the noise, came running out to my assistance ; but, seeing me rather use my heels than my hands, he followed my example, and so we built a scone, leaving the old bawd and the bully to condole with each other for their ill-concerted plot, for our reckoning was pretty considerable.

THIS fellow was one of those who is commonly called a Derby-captain, whose character may not be unentertaining to the reader.

“ A DERBY-CAPTAIN is so named from his frequenting the Derby alehouses, where he diverts company with the

VOL. I. O strange

strange and lying accounts of his amours
 and his battles. A bawdy-house is his
 cloyster, where he constantly says his
 Mattins; he is the whores protector,
 boasting himself more valiant than Hector,
 thereby thinking to taking off the suspi-
 cion of cowardice, for the reputation of
 bravery is a good defence to those who
 dare not use it. He often draws his sword
 upon slight occasions, and never but when
 he is well assured no danger will ensue.
 In company he is very captious, and his
 wrath never swells higher than against
 those, whom he finds the least willing to
 give him an occasion to exert it. The
 only way to pacify him is to kick him;
 the hotter you grow the milder is he.
 The more you abuse him the more he re-
 spects you. Every man is his master that
 dares beat him; and all dare that know
 him. His estate lies in contrivance; no
 man has a more working brain, for his
 every meal is got by a stratagem. He
 hath

hath an excellent memory for his acquaintance; if there ever passed but an How do you do? between him and another, whom he thinks he can get any thing by, it shall serve for an embrace seven years after; and if you do not immediately know him, he cries, You have forgot your old acquaintance. Out of the abundance of his joy to see you, he must needs give you a glass of wine, and if you offer to pay for it, whilst you are drawing out your money, he fumbles in his pockets like a school-boy with the buttons of his breeches, when he is ordered to let them down to be whipped; but, when the reckoning is paid, he swears you are too quick for him, and force him to incivility.

“ If he can get no supplies from the bawdy-house, he borrows of all he can meet; of this a shilling, of that another, which some lend him, not so much with

the hopes of being repayed, as that he will never trouble them again. If any man does him a favour he uses him as he does his coat, never forsakes him till he has worn him thread-bare: his morning prayer is, that his cheats may take effect that day, or, if not, that he may have where-withal to be drunk before night; he sleeps with a pipe in his mouth, and dreams of nothing but a dungeon. He dares not enter into a serious thought with himself, lest he should hang himself, but, if melancholy seizes him, beer is his refuge, and drunkenness cures him. Lastly, If he escapes the gallows, he dies of the pox; and so ends the noble Captain."

My comrade and I were exceedingly rejoiced at the deliverance we had had from mother Cross's, yet could not take warning thereby, but resolved to seek more adventure, and make another visit to some of the kind sex; so, rambling
down

down Fetter-lane, the Devil's finger pointed out to us the sign of a lady's hand with a coffee-pot, in a little alley, which we knew was the sure mark of a house for our purpose ; but, when we entered, how we were amazed at the sight of mother Frowzey in a chair by the fire, with a pipe in her mouth, and a quartern of aqua-vitæ by her side ! This tun of flesh resembled an elephant in the bulk of her waist, and her nose seemed almost long enough for its trunk ; her teeth, indeed, were fallen out, and as loving neighbours to reconcile them, her nose and chin were resolved to meet about it. When she opened her mouth to bid us welcome, her breath was like the steam of a furnace, sending forth the strong effluvia of brimstone, tobacco, and strong waters. Her house was dirty, her chairs and tables were all ricketty, and her maid Piety, who was called down to see what we wanted, had no nose, and, I believe, no smock :

this we thought not a fit place of entertainment for two gentlemen, who had above two hundred pounds in their pockets, and therefore we marched off to find out a place more agreeable to our taste: but in the way I would fain have had my friend let me into a partnership in his cash; which, he refusing, made me resolve with myself to find some way, if possible, to nick him of the whole.

‘ It happened, that coming into Lincoln’s inn-fields, we overtook a lady extremely well dressed; and I found, upon a close examination of her, she had something in her face that was not only very handsome, but that promised no great opposition to an engagement of love; upon which I resolved boldly to attack her, my comrade would have dissuaded me from it, saying, To be sure she will be affronted, for she had all the appearance of a woman of fashion; but, I remembering
the

the old proverb, "Faint heart never won
 "fair lady," told him he was a fool, that
 women of fashion, and of quality too,
 were as susceptible of love as those of
 lower rank ; so, addressing myself to the
 lady in a very frank manner, I told her,
 It was a pity that so agreeable a lady
 should have nobody to attend her ; and
 that if she would give me leave to see her
 safe home, I should take it as an honour :
 the lady, so far from being affronted, as
 my friend imagined she would have been,
 answered, with a great deal of complai-
 sance, that I was very obliging, and the
 honour would be done to her. We went
 no farther than Great Queen-street before
 she stopped at a very handsome house, and
 said, she was now at home, and that if I
 and my friend would walk in, we should
 be very welcome ; I made her answer,
 That if any man could refuse so charm-
 ing an invitation, he ought never to be
 blest with such another : so in we went,
 and

and were conducted into a spacious apartment, most elegantly furnished; after which a servant brought wine, and there being a harpsichord in the room, which I took notice of, the lady very obligingly sat down, and played, accompanying the instrument with her voice, the most ravishing I had ever heard. How would all these accomplishments have adorned a woman of virtue! and what pity it is that they were bestowed on one of the most infamous prostitutes that ever was born! and such she will appear in the sequel of the story.

WE made a great many compliments upon her fine voice, and all the other charms of her person and company; and she, not to be behind with us, made us believe she was mighty well pleased with us, and would needs have us stay supper with her, which we very readily agreed to: the lady drank freely, and made us
do

do the same; and, between whiles, gave me to understand there was no favour she was not ready to grant me. The musick, the charms of the lady, but more especially the wine, had so intoxicated my friend, that he was quite drunk and asleep. It now came into my head, that this was the best opportunity I should meet with to execute my design upon him. So I determined to rob him, and, that I might also secure him from following me, to send him home to his master. I found the lady had but a contemptible opinion of him, and seemed to wish him out of the way, that we might enjoy ourselves the more freely; therefore I brought her in to assist my project, as if it was a thing only done in jest; I said he had near two hundred pounds about him, that I would take it from him while he was thus asleep, and send him home, then suffer him to be sufficiently frightened for the loss of his money before I restored it, and that would teach

teach him more wit than to carry such a charge about him when he had no occasion for it. Madam seemed to be mightily pleased with the joke, but, like a damned strumpet as she was, designed to make no joke of it. She was very officious in getting a porter as I desired; then lent me a card, which, after I had rifled his pockets, I sewed, with a superscription, on his back, directing him to his master in such a place, and wrote the following letter, to be delivered at the same time:

*SIR, I lately found your goose upon the way,
And pick'd him up as one that went astray.
To recompence my pains I pull'd his feathers,
Such precious down will warm me in all
weathers.*

I GAVE the porter instructions, that he should but just put him within the doors, and leave the letter, and then come away with all speed to prevent any examination; which

which he did accordingly, and came back sooner than I could expect. By this time I had gained my mistress with a golden shower; and she protested, that, from the moment I first accosted her in Lincoln's-inn fields, she had felt such a tendre for me, that nothing but having the full possession of me could satisfy; that she would wholly devote herself to me, and would despise all mankind for my sake; and hoped, that, in return, I would promise to be constant to her; this I was not at all backward in, it being what I was used to, having sworn constancy to at least fifty before. I then took her in my arms, and would have had her gone immediately to bed; but, she told me, there would be time enough before morning to sport in, and that we should be both tired if we went to bed so soon. She often went out of the room, and stayed a pretty while, which, I imagined, was to prepare the bed with a more than common delicacy; but

but she had other thoughts in her head, suggested, I suppose, by the sight of the said two hundred pounds. At length having sung two or three more songs, and played some lessons on her harpsichord, we retired to her bed-chamber, and of all the musick she had made, delightful as it was, I thought none so charming as that of the tag of her stays while she was unlacing, if I was so much transported with the preparation, it is not easy to imagine how great were my raptures when I came to the entertainment itself: But O! how short was the enjoyment! We had not been above half an hour in bed before a noise was made at the windows, with which madam pretended to be greatly frightened, and lay for some time trembling in a most extraordinary manner, and said, she was afraid there were thieves breaking into the house; when instantly the casement of one of the windows being burst open, three ruffians

came

came rushing into the chamber one after another; upon which my chamber, slipping on her gown, got out of bed, and begged they would not murder her; they said, they had no such intention, but would prevent her making a noise, so laid fast hold of her, and gagged and bound her. Then, having plundered the room, "damme, said one of them, here is a good feather-bed, we will hand that out of the window;" upon which, coming hastily to the bed-side, they rolled it up, and poor Pilgarlic in the middle of it; pulling that and myself very rudely upon the ground, which made me put my head out at the end, and roar like Phalaris in his bull. The rogues pretending to be frightened at the unexpected noise scampered to the window, and escaped by a rope ladder they had fixed there for their purpose. Perceiving they were gone, I crept from my hole, and getting to my fair Devil, took the gag out of her mouth, loosed her hands, and

she herself untied her feet. I then began
 to look for my cloaths, but they were
 not to be found, at which she seemed to
 be much concerned ; but, when I told her
 what a sum of money I had lost, her grief,
 as she pretended, was redoubled. For this
 was all a pretence, she herself having laid
 the whole scheme of the robbery, as she
 afterwards confessed to me in Newgate,
 where I, some time after, went to pay her
 a visit, when under condemnation, only
 for poisoning one of her husbands, who,
 as she then informed me, was one of the
 very rogues that robbed me ; and their
 quarrels began about his refusing her a
 share of the booty. In this condition
 what was to be done, she had no men's
 cloaths in her house, but said, I must
 even be contented to be dressed in wo-
 man's apparel, and that she could furnish
 me with, accordingly she put me on a
 very handsome suit of her own cloaths
 with all things suitable ; the slenderness
 of

of my body, and smoothness of my skin, made me almost believe, when I came to consult the glass, that there was a real transmutation of sex; but when I walked I found something pendulous, that convinced me I was, in that point, *Statu quo*. The time being come when I was to take my leave, I made a foul mistake in offering to salute my mistress, for I was endeavouring to pull off my hood instead of my hat, and made a reverend bow for a courtesy: the kind lady taught me how to rectify my error for the future, and then we bade each other adieu. Here I was entered upon a new scene of action; I traversed the streets, considering with myself what I had best do, but my invention, that was at all times pretty ready, put the following scheme in my head: I knocked at a door where I saw a bill, and asked what lodgings they had to lett; I was civilly intreated to walk in, and shewn several rooms with much respect, for my female habit

was very gallant, and so it had need, for it cost me as much as a cloth of gold ; at length I pitched upon two rooms genteelly furnished, and made no scruple about the rent, because I knew I should never pay any. I told my landlady that I was just come out of the country, and my trunks and other things were to follow with my servants ; I at first resolved to take the apartment for no longer time than I thought I could want in providing men's cloaths, and making my escape ; but finding my present garb disguised me well, and that there was no danger of a discovery, I determined to play some pranks as a fine lady. There was a young gentleman, who lodged in the same house, that took especial notice of me as soon as I entered it, and who, as he told me the next day, was overjoyed that I had resolved to be a lodger there. This young gallant, who had more money than wit, prepared a banquet for me, and requested
the

the favour that I would permit that, and himself, to be received into my apartment; I alledged, that I could not, in point of honour, allow of any such thing, and desired to be excused; but he pressed me so hard, getting the landlady also to intercede for him, that at last, with much seeming reluctance, I condescended to accept of his offer. Very merry they were; but I thought it would be most prudent for me to be upon the reserve. My he lover so gazed upon me, that I thought he would have devoured me with his eyes; and sometimes he would kiss me, but that I thought would have made me disgorge in his face; for, in my opinion, nothing is so unnatural as one man's kissing another, though I fear it is but too common now-a-days with what they call pretty-fellows, a crime that cannot be too much detested. However, my lover was none of those, for he really took me for a woman. In two or three days we be-

came so intimately acquainted, that he grew impudent, and one day caught at me, endeavouring to seize that part where female honour should ever be upon the guard; and now he had like to have spoiled all, for he happened to meet with something so stiff, that I must have been blown had not my Enamorado mistaken it for the end of my busk. I shewed myself highly displeased at this indecency, and expressed my resentment in very severe terms. The next morning he courted me to a reconciliation with a present of a very pretty diamond ring, by which he seemed well acquainted with the sex, for nothing is more likely to gain a conquest than presents of that kind genteelly bestowed. With much importunity I accepted his peace-offering; but upon condition that he should never attempt to commit the like offence. I was in nothing so much perplexed as how to dress myself when my cloaths were off. I durst not lay

two things together for fear of a mistake, there were so many baubles ; I was once or twice going to write down an inventory, and the proper places they belonged to ; when I viewed them on the table they represented such a Babel of confusion, that I thought nothing less than a miracle could produce order from : but I so improved myself, by hourly practice, and by observing others, that at last I got the knack of it. Then I began to new-model my steps, which were before two large by three-quarters ; next, by the help of my glass. I learned to leer, og'e, and languish. My feet, like traytors, I kept close prisoners, lest the sight of them should, like the Devil's cloven foot, betray me.

WELL, I now thought it time to march off, but not before I had plucked my widgeon ; and having a convenient opportunity, when none but he and I were present, I pretended so have had a
a great

a great disappointment in not receiving some money I expected, and that my rents were not due till a week after, and therefore I should be much obliged to him, I said, if he would lend me ten pounds for eight days, when I would faithfully repay him, with many thanks, for so great an obligation. He was rejoiced, he told me, that I would do him so great an honour, as to accept of his service in such a trifle, and flew like lightning to his scrutoire, bringing out a purse of money ; he humbly begged I would take twenty instead of ten pounds, for fear of any accident, I told him, it was too much, however, I took it, and immediately ordered a coach to be called, saying, I had business in the city ; my cully would fain have waited on me, but I told him it was absolutely improper, for my affairs were of that nature, that they could not be transacted, but with great privacy ; whereupon he desisted.

COMING

COMING into Birchin-lane, I went to a Salesman, and there purchased, as for my maid servant, an ordinary, yet decent, petticoat and jacket, with all other appurtenances suitable to a cleanly house-maid. Instead of returning to my lodgings I took a coach and drove to one of the principal nurseries in Whetstone's-park ; for I looked upon it as a matter of no great importance, either to take leave of my young gallant at home, or my landlady, not having left the least thing behind me, as a mortgage for my rent.

UPON my first visit to that corpulent Matron, mother Cunny, in Whetstone's-park, I was recived with all the demonstrations of joy imaginable ; and the good gentlewoman could not forbear expressing her great satisfaction, in that her civil and honest deportment should be an inducement to strangers, to shelter themselves under her protection. She highly applauded

praised both my features and complexion, and said, my hair, which was flaxen, was of the right amorous colour, and would warrant I was as full of love as an egg's full of meat. My stature, she told me, was stately, but rather of the tallest: Well, honey, said she, you shall be an Alderman's lady before to-morrow; and never the worse neither, for Alderman Fumble pays well for doing nothing.

THE careful old lady had no sooner said this, but she was called down to a roaring Damboy that was just entered the house; and I, having the curiosity to listen a little upon the stairs, heard her giving him an account of, what a rare treasure she had above, which nobody should be blest with the sight of, she was resolved, 'till he had had the refusal of it. In short, he was soon brought up into the chamber where I was, and behaved civilly for a little while. But, O! Heavens! how great was

was my confusion, when neither strength of argument, or force of hands, could repel the fury of his lust. I defended myself manfully a long time; but seeing it was impossible to hold out any longer, without being discovered, I was forced to cry aloud for help.

THIS so alarmed my spark, who concluded my outcry proceeded not so much from chastity as a design to trepan him, that he drew his sword, and making towards the stairs, ran down with more haste than good speed; for in his way he overturned the old bawd, who was coming up to my relief, and so both rolled down to the bottom of the stairs, one over the other. The poor gallant was so overpowered by fear, that he took the old Matron for the bully that, he thought, I had called to my assistance; therefore took to his heels, and ran into the street, and away, without once looking behind him.

WHEN

WHEN the bawd, by the help of a dram or two, was brought to herself, she began to catechise me about my behaviour, asked what I could mean by making that outcry ; the Captain had nothing, she said, that a woman need be afraid of him. She said, I should be the ruin of her house, and should not stay in it for an hundred pounds. I told her I did not intend it, for I could not brook such a course of life, to be at the beck of every boisterous ruffian whenever he thought proper, without the least ceremony, or consulting one's inclination. Marry, come up, cried she, you want to pick and choose your lovers do you ? And then be courted to the pleasure ? I should thrive finely by such delicate airs ; No, no, whoever hath the benefit of my protection, must resolve to take all fish that comes to net. Well, Madam, said I, I cannot have done you much damage yet, and whatever it be I will make you amends for it. For, as I
can-

cannot live up to the condition in which I have been bred, I will even get into some honest service, rather than lead this life; and I have a mean habit here, fit for the purpose, that I brought in a bundle, which, with your permission, I will now put on, and leave you these cloaths on my back, as a satisfaction for the trouble I have given you. This was a proposition that could not be displeasing to her; so she said, she would not endeavour to persuade me to any thing against my inclinations; though really her way of business, she thought, more preferable than going to service.

BEING divested of my gentility, and now dressed up like a tight country girl, I took my way towards Hackney, where, being arrived in the evening, I went to a decent publick house, and asked if I could have a lodging there; and was answered, that I might, and welcome. The good

woman of the house, seeing me look a little disconsolate, as she thought, asked me very kindly many questions about my condition ; I told her so many plausible stories of my pretended misfortunes, as that my father was dead in the country, and left behind him a cruel mother-in-law, that used me very ill, which made me resolve to come towards London to seek for a service, &c. that she took great pity of me, and said, she believed it was in her power to help me, for they just then wanted a house-maid at Madam Brockstone's boarding-school ; therefore bade me to be of good cheer, for she would go in the morning and speak a good word for me, and did not doubt of success. The very name of the boarding-school set me in a flame, for I had observed two or three of the prettiest young creatures looking out of the window there, that I had ever beheld in my life. I returned her many thanks, and said it would be an
act

act of great charity, and I should think myself obliged to pray for her. To make short of the story, my landlady of the Royal-Oak did my business the next day, prevailing with the mistress of the boarding-school to take me into her service, by the name of Joan Hutchinson: but when I came to use the utensils in the kitchen, I handled them so scurvily, that it made the giggling jades, my fellow-servants, ready to crack their sides with laughing; and, to make still more sport with me, the second day I was in my new service, there being some roast-meat to be spitted; the rest of the maids got all out of the way to see what I would do with it: I pulled and hauled it so, that when it was on the spit nobody could tell what joint it was. In short, I was so ignorant in all household affairs, that my mistress told me she must discharge me; upon which I fell a blubbering, and said, I would do any thing to serve so good a gentlewoman; that i

was true I had been always bred up in an obscure country village, and knew but little; but I was very desirous to learn; and that, if she pleased, I would serve her for nothing, valuing experience more than wages; besides, I added, that I had twenty pounds left me by my father, that nobody could hinder me of; and, if she would give me leave, I would put that in her hands as security for my honesty.

THE good old gentlewoman being much pleased with my simplicity, and modest behaviour, said, she would try a little what could be done with me, and presently ordered her maids to teach me all they could, without making a jest of the poor innocent creature, as she was pleased to call me. By making a diligent use of my time, I very soon came to have a competent knowledge of my business, and was well approved of by every body in the house; the young ladies would romp
and

and play with me; my mistress spoke very kind to me; and my fellow-servants and I agreed very well: but the greatest difficulty I had to conquer was; to conceal my sex, from a buxom young wench who was my bed-fellow. I had many struggles between inclination and prudence; however, the latter so far got the better, that I made no discovery till I had got into many of her secrets, and then I thought I might trust her with one of mine.

ONE night I perceived her very restless, continually sighing and tumbling, then laying her leg close to mine, and pressing me in her arms, which was undoubtedly owing to a strong sympathy of nature, as I guessed by myself, for my heart beat so as if it would burst from my breast. I thought I could do no less than ask her the meaning of her disquiet; when she said, with a sigh, "Dear Joan,
I will

I will lay open my whole heart to you :
 Our coachman, for several months, hath
 expressed a more than common respect for
 me ; and indeed, though I endeavoured to
 conceal that affection I have for him, I
 could not but give him some hopes ; but
 my misery is, that we had different ends
 in view : mine was to have him marry me ;
 but his, only to gain a present enjoyment ;
 but finding me obstinate, and not yielding
 to his solicitations, he begins to slight me,
 and is continually toying, before my face,
 with the other maids, who, I am per-
 suaded, will soon surrender, and then I
 may lose him for ever. Now, dear Joan,
 let me tell thee, I can bear it no longer ;
 but, if he makes the least overture to me,
 I must give way to his desires " I endea-
 voured to dissuade her from this rash re-
 solution with all the rhetoric I was master
 of ; telling her, that if he could thus
 slight her before enjoyment, she had but
 little to expect from him afterwards ; but
 all

all seemed to no purpose; for she desired, at all adventures, that Thomas might once more renew his addresses. and wished she had him then in her arms, at the same time giving me an eager embrace. This I thought was the critical moment to discover myself; whereupon, returning the embrace, Come, come, said I, I will soon put you out of conceit with Thomas, and cure this malady that disturbs you. So, after enjoying her, to keep what I was going to relate a secret, which I thought she would have done for her own sake; I made her sensible of my being as well able to satisfy her longing as any Thomas of them all. She was so delighted, that she swore Thomas henceforward should not keep the least corner in her heart. It was the custom of the young ladies, almost every night, to run skittishly up and down into one anothers chambers, and sometimes into the maids; and I was so pestered by them that they would
hardly

hardly let me sleep : but I had an excellent guardian in bed with me, who would not let any of them come in to us, resolving to monopolize me to herself. It was good sport to observe how this maid would always follow me about like my shadow, and whatever I was doing would have a hand in it. What an endless business did we make of only tossing up a bed, or folding a few napkins ? My mistress saw her work greatly neglected, laying all the blame on my bed-fellow, and truly not without cause ; for her mind was so employed in thinking of night, that she did little business all day. At length my mistress, seeing how careless and flatteringly she was grown, turned her away. This was no small joy to me, for I had had enough of her ; and I found that her extreme fondness would very shortly have betrayed me.

After the departure of my bed fellow,
the young ladies pitying my lonely condition,

tion, would come to keep me company. The first had like to have spoiled all by her squeaking; but some of the girl's running to know what was the matter, she readily told them she thought there was a mouse in the bed; this satisfying them, they went out of the room, and I was left to enjoy one of the sweetest creatures in the world; having first enjoined her to secrecy: but, alas! all injunctions on women to keep a secret, are but so many persuasions to divulge it. For, notwithstanding she had promised silence, she could not forbear telling what had happened to some of her peculiar friends and companions, intending that they should participate with her in the pleasures she enjoyed. This brought me to an extreme hard task; and which, but for the sake of dear variety, I should never have been able to have gone through. Thus was I revelling in joys every night, and gathering these sweet rose buds for many months
to-

together, 'till I was forced to fly from the danger that was but too evidently coming upon me, and from the alteration I perceived in the young ladies bodies, and the frequent squalls that came over their stomachs in a morning : In short, one-half of the school were with child, which made me think it high time to get out of the way ; and, to favour my escape, it happened very luckily that my mistress had just then a son come home from sea, where he had been with the King's letter ; and, being exactly of my stature, I made bold with one of his suits of cloaths, and other accoutrements, which I put on, resuming my proper shape, and marched off, early one morning, before any of the family was stirring, with the twenty pounds in my pocket, and the diamond ring, that I had obtained in my last adventure. I could not help pitying the poor girls ; and yet it made me laugh when I thought what a scene it would be to have so many
 gos-

gossipings in one house at a time ; and was puzzled to think where they would find godfathers for them.

C H A P. V.

What a trick Jeremy put upon a young fellow of his acquaintance, and how he was bit by it himself, being thereby reduced to extreme poverty. What arch pranks he played with Mr. Godfrey, the vintner, in East-cheap, and his wife, as well as others, to relieve his necessities.

I MADE all the haste I could to London, knowing the largeness of that vast city would afford most convenience for my concealment ; but my cloaths much troubled me, for I thought nothing would sooner betray me. Whilst I was considering with myself what to do, a lucky accident happened in my favour : I met a young man of my former acquaintance among the society of apprentices, who seemed extremely glad to see me ; and we went into a house to drink together.

Over

Over our cups I began to enquire after his condition; he shook his head, and told me he had been very unfortunate, and that the cause had been his own vanity and self-conceit; for that he lived with a very good master and mistress, where he had every thing he could reasonably desire; but that, mistaking his mistress's good-nature and civility for love, he had wrote her an amorous epistle, desiring an assignation with her, which she seemed to consent to; but when the time appointed was come, instead of his mistress his master met him, and, with a horse-whip, had so belaboured him, that he was glad to make his escape out of the house, and now knew not what to do with himself. After I had lamented his misfortune, and drank a cup or two more, I began to think of executing the design I had upon him. I asked what I should give to exchange cloaths with him; he said, he supposed I was in jest; for mine seemed to be a great

deal better than his; No matter for that, said I, I will give you half-a-crown. Done, said my friend, for I want money so greatly, that if mine had been as much better than your's, as your's seem to be beyond mine, I would have taken that: so to stripping we went, when I had first paid him the half-crown I proposed to him. We had not quite made an end before I espied one coming into the house with a constable, who, it seems, had a warrant to take me up for robbing my mistress's house; but I was known by nothing but her son's cloaths, which were described to the first fellow, and he had dogged me into the place where I then was, and afterwards fetched the Constable. They forthwith laid hold of my companion, finding the cloaths on his back, telling him, He should severely suffer for the wrong done his mistress in the abuse of her house. Full of horror and amazement he beseeched them not to carry him before his mistress;

tress; he owned he had greatly offended
 her, and to be sure so good and virtuous
 a woman could never forgive what he had
 done. This indeed left them no scruple
 about their having the right person. The
 more he intreated, the more deaf and inex-
 orable were they; and whilst they were
 busy with their mistaken criminal, I took
 an opportunity to give them the slip, know-
 ing that a little farther discourse would
 rectify their error. What they did with
 him I know not, and I had enough to do
 to take care of myself; for, to my great
 mortification, I found that in the hurry I
 was in to make an end of dressing; when
 I saw the Constable coming, I had quite
 forgot to take my money out of my
 pocket, so that I had left my comrade in
 possession of near twenty pounds, besides
 my diamond ring, whilst I had only for
 myself the poor half-crown that I had
 given him to change cloaths with me: I
 cannot say I had a light heart and a thin

pair of breeches ; for I do not remember that I was ever more vexed and melancholic in my whole life ; it was not only a great disappointment to me, but a disgrace to my understanding, I thought, that I, who had so many ingenious contrivances to get other people's money from them, should now part with my own so much like a fool ; the two hundred pounds I was robbed of did not so much grieve me as these twenty ; because, in that case, I had nothing to reproach myself with. Well, I was to cast about for more ; but nothing immediately offered, and towards evening I began to be very hungry, and had no lodging ; so I went to a house in White-Chaple, where I knew there was good entertainment, and a bed at any time for a guest. Here I thought I should get meat, drink, and lodging for chalk, and chalk for nothing. I called about me for a great many things that were the choicest and most expensive, and, I believe, did
eat

eat in a voracious manner, which made the drawers take notice of me, and, I suppose, tell their mistress that I did not seem, by my dress, and way of eating, to be used to such dainties, who was thereupon on her guard, and, when I called for candles to go to bed, she came into the room to me, and told me, It was the custom of her house to reckon with her lodgers, every night, for what they had had in the day, and to have her lodging discharged once a-week. In truth, I had intended to have discharged myself before the week had been out; but I knew not what answer to make her for the present. After a little pause, I told her, she put me quite out of countenance with her demand, and that I should not be able to satisfy it; but I desired her to be contented till to-morrow, when my portmanteau and trunks would be brought to her house, which I would make my quarters; for some time, and that she should find me a boon-

companion, who would eat and drink freely : I believe so, said she, you would, if you could be here for some time ; or, it may be, a design only to make this your refuge or sanctuary for one night ; and then you say you will eat and drink freely ; that is, I suppose, at free cost ; but, Sir, give me my reckoning now, or you have no lodging here, I assure you. Do you suspect me, landlady, said I : Respect you, said she, (mistaking the word) for what, unless I knew you better ; and yet, I doubt, I shall know you too well. That is a good one indeed ! Respect such a skinful of bones, such a bundle of faggot-sticks ; Why, thou haberdasher of small wares ! Dost thou think I can respect thee for any thing but thy money ; unless I should be so mad as to fall in love with famine, of which thou art the picture. Come, come, give me my reckoning, and then I may talk to thee in another dialect ; if not, I shall set my bull-dogs upon you,

that

that is, my tapster, my hostler, my cook, and my chamberlain. Hearing her say this, I expected no mercy ; and, thinking the coast was clear, I betook myself to flight ; but, as ill luck would have it, the tapster lay asleep on the bench at the door with his legs stretched out, over which I fell, and awakening him, he laid fast hold of me, and, before I could rise, I had three or four upon me together, who, I thought, would have limbed me, as boys, falling out, do their cocks on a Shrove-Tuesday. At this time I would almost have compounded with one limb to have saved the rest. After these merciless creatures had pummelled me a sufficient while to have wearied their own arms, as well as severely bruise mine ; the mistress, with her shrill voice, cried out, Strip the rogue ; Ay, ay, says the cook-wench, as naked as ever he was born. No, said the chamberlain, who seemed to have the most compassion ; I fancy if we take his coat
it

it will be enough for the reckoning if he has no money : Well then, indeed, said I, I have none, being willing to save my half-crown ; knowing, that if I had given them that they would not have spared my coat. I was immediately uncased, and, with two or three kicks, sent about my business. And truly I now began to wish I had some lawful business to go about ; for I found that whatever I got by my thieving and cheating would never continue with me ; that I every day risked my neck ; and the few pleasures I had, were attended with such fears and disasters, that they gave but little satisfaction. As I had something in my very nature that inclined me to roguery, and as I had been a thief almost from my cradle, these reflections were not likely to dwell long upon my mind ; but I soon returned to the old trade. I was unwilling to venture into another house that night, upon any adventure, in the plight I was in, and, at the same time, did

did not care to tap my solitary half-crown; therefore, it being pleasant weather, and summer time, I resolved to take up my lodging in the fields; accordingly, I went to a convenient place, between Mile-end and Stepney, and there kicked up a cow; this was what I had often heard of, but never tried before, and I must needs say it is a comfortable kind of lodging; the reader, if he happens to be in the like distress at any time, is to be informed, that the method is to kick up the beast, and lie down in the warm place she leaves. When the blushing morn appeared, and I had risen from my verdant bed, I began to lament the loss of my coat; for, poor as it was, it had been faithful to its first master; and not being able to have a nap, on account of his poverty, was really become a changeling; yet it was serviceable to him, and would have been so to me, I dare say.

STROLLING

STROLLING along in my waistcoat, I came into East-Cheap, just by the door of old Godfrey, * the Vintner, of poisonous memory, whom I heard, just then, calling one of his men to go for the barber, and bid his god-son come to shave him immediately; this put a lucky thought in my head, how I might have an opportunity of plundering the old fellow, who was very rich; so I went to the next corner, and waited till I saw the boy coming along with his implements, and, taking him aside, Hearkee, said I, are not you Mr. Godfrey's god-son: Yes, Sir, answered the lad, and your name, said I,——is Simon, cried the boy. Well, Si. you

** This piece of Jeremy's roguery was so well known, that it was made the subject of a Play called, The Match in Newgate.*

must

must lend me your bason and razors, with your apron, said I, for I am going to shave your god-father, only in a frolic, and do you go over the way to the ale-house, where I will bring your things, and give you a tester for yourself to go to Bartholomew-fair with. The boy thanked me kindly, and did as I desired him. Whereupon I tied on my apron, and went boldly to shave the Vintner, which I meant to do in a double sense. When I first entered the room, he asked me for his god-son Simon ; I told him Simon was gone out, before he sent, to shave another gentleman ; but, because he was in haste, my master sent me, though a stranger, to him ; and I did not doubt but that I should do his worship's business very well. After the cloth was tucked under his chin, and I had begun to lather his chops, as usual, he asked me abundance of questions ; as, How long I had been a barber ? And what I was bred to ? I answered, that I had

had been originally bred to the sea. How came you to leave that, said he, the many misfortunes, I replied, that I had met with there, had quite deterred me from ever venturing again : and so I began to amuse him with the following rigmirole story. In my first voyage, Sir, said I, we met with three Algerine pirates, which we made all the sail from we could ; but, being deep laden, found it impossible ; and I having heard the miseries those men go through, who are made their slaves, I chose rather to run the hazard of being drowned than made their prisoner, and so prevailed upon the cooper of our ship to barrel me up in an oatmeal cask, with six biscuits, clapped a strong cork into the bung-hole, and fling me over-board, which was done accordingly. There was I tossed upon the seas, for eight days together, 'till I was almost starved, for I had nothing but these six biscuits to live on. At last, as fortune would have it, a Dutch
man

man of war sailing along, and espying a barrel floating on the sea, manned out their long boat, and brought me on board. I was so faint for want of air and victuals, that I was not able to speak; but I heard them disputing what it was that should be in the barrel: one said it was beef, another said it was butter, and a third said it was oatmeal; at last the Cooper was called to beat out the bung, which he did, and let out such a fume, that they all concluded it stunk like the Devil: at last, one of the Sailors putting in his hand to feel what it was, I whipt his fore finger and thumb into my mouth, and bit them cleverly off; for, you must know, I was cursed hungry, with that, the fellow roared out, it was the Devil; the Cooper clapt the bung into the barrel again, and tossed me over-board. Oddsbobbs, said the Vintner, that was ill luck indeed; but how didst thou escape at last? By meer providence, answered I, after float-

ing about in the barrel for twelve days more, with nothing but the man's finger and thumb to live upon. O pox! twelve days! Barber, that could never be. It is true, Sir, said I, as I am an honest man: At last, I found it was flun ashore by the tide; and, thinking to myself, I might as well be drowned as starved; for, by this time, you must know, I had not so much as a nail of the man's finger and thumb left; I struck out the bung, and, putting my head out for a little fresh air, found I was cast ashore in Greenland; immediately, Sir, I espied a white fox come galloping down to the sea-side; with that I whipped my head into the barrel again, knowing it to be a most furious beast of prey. How big was this white fox? cried the cully: Somewhat bigger, Sir, said I, than a large Flanders mare. Down, I say, he came to the barrel; so, smelling whereabout I was, he roared like a lion; but, as providence would have it, that
 very

very moment a fly stung him by the buttocks, he turned round to rub himself against the barrel, his tail lying over the bung-hole, I clapped fast hold of it with both my hands; the fox, frightened at that, fell a galloping as if the Devil was at his tail, and drew the barrel with me in it, over hedge and ditch, for three-and-twenty miles together; but at last, jumping into a wood, and running full speed between two trees, that stood very close together, staved the barrel all to pieces; away ran the fox, and out came I. O Barber, Barber, this must be a gun! said the old fellow. Every Word true, replied I, or I wish I may never shave again. So, Sir, continued I, travelling to the port I met an English vessel, and shipped myself a passenger, and came home in her.

DURING the time of my telling this story, I had cast my eyes about in every

creek and corner of the room, and, in one part of it, I espied a money-bag of a pretty tolerable size, which I resolved to have one flap at. So bidding him wink, that my ball might not make his eyes finart, I lathered his face all over, whipped up the bag under my apron, and pushed clean out of the house, leaving the poor Vintner in the luds.

WHEN I had got at such a distance, as I thought myself out of danger, I went into a publick-house; there examining my bag, I found there were two-and-forty Pounds in it. Now I was made a man again. I flung away my apron, having, I thought, got enough by my trade, as a Barber: and taking a turn to a Sale-shop, in Birch-in-lane, (but not the same) where I purchased my house-maid's apparel, I equipped myself from top to toe with a good genteel garb. After this, going in my new drefs down Lombard-street, who
should

should I see but old Godfrey, talking to a Goldsmith at his shop-door ; and, when I came near him, I found he had been relating the whole story of the trick that had been put upon him by the Barber's boy ; swearing, that if ever he could meet with him, he would shew him no mercy. At the same time, he was sending the Goldsmith's man home with a large silver tankard, and bade him be sure to deliver it into his wife's own hands, and tell her he should be at home in little more than an hour.

MY chops watered at this tankard, and, thinks I to myself, as the wife never saw me, I may surely bite her as easily as I did her husband. Or else my wit's not so sharp as it used to be. With that, I went to a Fishmonger's, and, buying a handsome jole of fresh salmon, I marched with it towards Godfrey's in East-Cheap, where I saw the Goldsmith's man

come out; so, waiting a little, I then went and asked for Mrs. Godfrey, I should have told the reader that I had enquired the Goldsmith's name in Lombard-street, and found it was Schrimphaw: Mrs. Godfrey coming into the passage to me, I presented my pretended master, Mr. Schrimphaw's, service to her, and told her, he had sent her that jole of salmon for a present; and that he intended to come, in about an hour's time, to han-sel the new tankard; but, in the mean time, Mr. Godfrey desired she would send it back, that the first letter of their names might be graved upon it, which had been forgot: It is very well, said she, I shall be glad to see Mr. Schrimphaw, and thank him for his kind present; But did my husband send no token for the delivery of the tankard? Yes, said I, that he was in the suds in the morning. Ay, replied she, that is a sure, but a very melancholy token: Pray commend me to
your

your master and mistress, and so gave me the tankard ; which, I thought, it would be best to get rid of as soon as I could, before publick notice was given of the robbery ; therefore carrying it to a Pawn-Broker, I borrowed ten pounds upon it.

I WAS so puffed up with the success of these two last adventures, that I began to think stealing ought to be reckoned among the liberal sciences ; for, though it may be called a handicraft, yet it cannot be looked upon as mechanic ; and really so proud was I of my profession, that I could not let any opportunity slip of putting it in practice ; but seeing a handsome cloak in a parlour in Chancery-lane, with the door open, I could not resist such a temptation, although I had then full fifty pounds in my pockets, purloyned from the poor Vintner ; but in I went, having an excuse at my tongue's end, if I had met any to
question

question me : that not happening, I came safe off with my prize, for a short space ; but O ! my flight and distraction is not to be described, when coming into Fleet-Street, my friend Godfrey meets me full but, and lays violent hands upon me. I asked him the meaning of it, and told him, he had surely mistaken the person. No, damme, he said, he would use me as bad as the white fox had done : villain, that I was, to cheat him twice in one day, and of so much. I struggled hard to get from him ; at last, unbuttoning my cloak, I whirled myself round, and hung it cleverly on his shoulders, with the wrong side out, giving a spring at the same time, I got cross the way, and could not forbear looking behind me, when, to my great joy, I saw he was prevented from pursuing me, by being seized by the Constable, and a great mob of people, who had, it seems, followed me for the cloak ; and not having perceived how I
had

had shifted it from myself, laid hold of the Vintner: and the owner, as I afterwards learned, swearing positively to the cloak, and that he had sight of the thief almost from the time of its being stolen, to that of his finding it on his back. Poor Godfrey was committed to Newgate, and had a hard escape for his life.*

AFTER I had dodged about through several bye allies and lanes, I came to the new Gaming Ordinary, in Bell-Yard,

* *This Cloak, in the Play beforementioned, is supposed to be taken from a Fidler; but that is a great mistake, for Godfrey's Trial was printed; and there it appeared to be the Cloak of one Mr. Marshal, in Chancery-Lane, a gentleman, who had a Place under the Lord Chancellor Hyde, and was taken out of his parlour in the manner above related.*

and

and there resolved to throw a merry main or two, which I did, with such success, that, by the time the company was ready to break up, I had made my fifty pounds two hundred. This good fortune, as it often happens to young gamesters, gave me such an itch to play, that I could not rest until I had lost it all back again, and should as much more, I suppose, if I had had it. I was not quite ruined in a day or two, having sometimes good luck, and at other times ill; but, in about a week, I had not a shilling left in the world, which brought my former reflection upon my mind of the misery of the life I was in, since I was never able to keep what I got, though I ventured so hard for it. And now I resolved with myself, I would try to be honest.

C H A P. VI.

JEREMY returns to his former master, who treats him with more kindness than ever; and he requites him by making him a cuckold.

IN order to put the resolution I had taken in execution, I wrote the following letter to my former master.

SIR,

“ HAVING seriously considered the heinousness of my crime, as well as the folly of deserting so good a master, who rather deserves the name of a father, with a truly penitent heart, and tears in my eyes, while I am writing this letter, I most humbly beg pardon of Heaven and you, hoping your goodness will mitigate my offence, by considering the little experience

perience I had in the world when I so indiscreetly left your service; but having now a thorough sense of my error, if you shall vouchsafe to forgive what is past, I promise to make the whole business, and study of my life, to deserve your favour. If you will condescend to allow me the permission of paying my respects and duty to you in person, be pleased to signify the same, by the bearer, to,

SIR,

Your sincerely repentant, and

Ever faithful humble Servant,

J E R E M Y S H A R P.

My master received this letter with a great deal of joy, and hastened away the bearer to bring me to him. When I came to his house he met me with open arms, and told me, that if, as I had promised in
my

my letter, I was determined to prosecute a more regular course of life than I had hitherto observed, he would forgive and forget all my past follies. I told him his goodness was so great, that I should be the most ungrateful and abandoned villain upon earth, if I did not always, and upon all occasions, shew him how sensibly I was of it.

As these expressions gave my master much content, so, I perceived, by my mistress's eyes, that my return gave her no small satisfaction. My master began to doat upon me again, seeing I daily doubled my diligence ; and so ready and active was I in every thing relating to his affairs, that it was difficult for him to anticipate me in my good intentions.

THIS gained so much upon his good-nature, that I had the liberty of wearing my hat in the shop, and was allowed to

sit at table with him and my kind mistress. I had soon very strong solicitations from my *quondam* friends of the Snipping Society; but fearing, that some time or other, I might be betrayed by the pusillanimity of some of the brethren, who, being detected, might not only confess their own failings, but impeach the whole fraternity; I was resolved to go no more among them; but, as to my resolution of becoming honest, I found that impossible: and therefore, when I did pilfer, determined it should be on my bottom, not letting any into a partnership with me. I now kept close to my business, not giving way to the least extravagance, and only studied how I might more and more deserve my master's good opinion of me. I began again to cant most religiously, and every Sabbath-day omitted not to take sermon notes, which I knew was a sure way to skrew myself into my mistress's good graces, for she doated on morning exercises,

cises and monthly fasts; and there were few private meetings, to which, by my master's leave, I did not wait upon her; and these were so many opportunities of breathing her affections to me; for I am sorry to be so uncharitable to say, that the zeal of the spirit in her was not warmer than that of the flesh; scarce a day passed in which I did not receive some token of her love, which I received with much respect and submission; but pretended not to understand her meaning, and that added fuel to her flame. Her courtship I thought was a little preposterous, she might first have received the charge from me; and, by that means, found if I had been prepared, whereas she might, in the way she took, have been deceived in her expectations. As I was one day ruminating on my mistress's behaviour, she came into the counting-house where I was writing, and, leaning upon my shoulder, asked me what I was doing; I answered, No-

thing but filling up blanks; I believe, said she, you do not know how to do any thing else; and then left me very abruptly, not doubting, I dare say, but that I had quickness of apprehension enough to guess at her meaning.

Not long after, believing her words had made an impression on me, as indeed they had, and that I should let her know my sense of them, when I had a convenient opportunity; she told my master she had a great inclination to make a visit to a gentlewoman she had not seen a long while, who lived on the other side of the water, and desired that I might go along with her, to which my master very readily assented. When we came to the water-side, she ordered me to call a pair of oars, and, being in the boat, she bid the waterman go to Vauxhall, instead of crossing directly over: I must own I was a little surprized at this, though I partly guessed

guessed what she would be at. Finding that I sat at a distance, with the respect of a servant; Come, cuz. said she, sit nearer, what art afraid of? Upon that I plucked up my courage; I believe I had, Madam, answered I, that we may trim the boat the better, for it seems too light on your side. This expression I saw nettled her; for, with a colour unusual in her face, she shot such a piercing dart from her eyes, that I thought would have gone through my very soul. Why, how now, cousin, said she, I thought you had a better opinion of me, I understand your words how enigmatical soever they may be to any one else. I would have made an apology, but she whispered in my ear, that if she was light, there was no other cause of it but myself, and that if I trifled with her passion any longer, she would sit heavy upon my skirts. Being arrived at the landing-place, we went strait to the Spring gardens; by the way she told me, I must lay aside

all formality ; and, for the better carrying on the design we went upon, she would have me assume the title of her cousin.

BEING conducted into an obscure bower, one of Love's chapel's of ease, where, without a clue, it would have been difficult for any to have found us: she first bespoke several eatables, and such wine, as she supposed, would warm my blood; then, when the waiter had left us by ourselves, told me, she would now take off the veil of modesty, and discover the whole nakedness of her heart to me. "The first Time I saw thee, said she, I had an uncommon respect for thee; every thing after increased the ardence of my affection: But, O! the flames I have burnt with, since the night you made that fatal, (or, shall I call it, happy mistake, of coming half-way into the bed to me) are not to be expressed, any more than the
distraction

distraction I was in at your leaving our
 house, or my joy at your return. Let me
 never more endure such racking pains.
 My life! my joy! I am all madness at
 the thought. I have given way to love,
 and that alone possesses all my powers. I
 would have crushed this passion in the bud;
 But what was feeble reason when opposed
 by such a foe? To myself I urged the dis-
 proportion of our years; the hazard of my
 reputation; but love, powerful love,
 soon got the victory." Having spoken
 these words, she took me by the hand,
 and dropped her head into my bosom, with
 a sigh. Pressing her to my arms, I raised
 her up, and then, kissing her hand, told
 her, that I was now happier than the
 greatest Prince upon the globe; for that
 I, from the first moment I saw her, was
 likewise struck with an irresistible passion;
 and that was one reason of my quitting
 her house, lest the extravagance of my
 love should make me do some rash or in-
 discreet

discreet thing that might prove my ruin, since I could never harbour the least hope of meeting with that happiness I then enjoyed of being beloved by her again.

Now then, my dear boy, said she, let us swear eternal love and constancy to one another; but let me conjure you to be careful of my reputation, nor suffer the liberty I give you to puff up your vanity, that you may treat me with less respect than usual, before my husband and other servants; but when we are in private, then all respect and distance will be tiresome; and the more freedom you treat me with, the more obliging it will be. With that, rolling her eyes, and breathing short, again she clasped me in her arms, and I sealed the agreement we had made, without a witness. We made an end of our business for that time, with much expedition, that our long stay might give no sus-
picion

picion to the cuckold ; for now I had a right to call him so.

COMING home, I applied myself to the business of the shop most diligently ; and, when my mistress came into it, I scarce ventured to look towards her. When night came, I went to bed, at my usual hour, but sleep I could not, for thinking of the passed frolic. While I was running over the whole scene in my mind, about one o'clock I was much startled, to hear something come softly into my chamber ; but I was not long in doubt of what it was, for, in an instant, my mistress whipped into the bed to me, without speaking one word, for fear of waking my master, who lay in the next room, most commonly, by himself, and her chamber was within that. I will not put the reader to blush, by repeating any thing we said or did together for a few hours. We were both well pleased ; and, at break of day, my sweet
bed-

bedfellow left me ; but, at an unlucky time, for my master happened just then to be awake, which might have ruined us both, had not he been a man of weak and timorous disposition of mind, and childishly afraid of ghosts and hobgoblins : For hearing the boards of the floor crack, twice or thrice, with the weight of her body, and by the help of her body, and by the help of the the twilight, perceiving something all in white pass through the room, he shunk beneath the bed-cloaths, not daring to put out his head, and then did his imagination suggest strange and ridiculous things to his fancy : but I shall give him leave to tell his own story anon.

A LITTLE after it was day-break, being almost stifled for want of fresh air, he boldly put his head out of the coverlid, after he had thrice exercised the Devil, or supposed evil spirits, with an avaut Satan ;

tan; and repeated these words, " Resist
 " the Devil and he will fly from thee :"
 and then he ventured to call as loud as he
 was able for me to come to him. I leaped
 out of bed, and ran to him, asking
 what was the matter. O JEREMY, said
 he, light a candle; I, running in haste to
 do what I was bid, made a mistake at the
 first step, and tumbled down stairs with a
 great noise, which my master hearing,
 cried out, " O Lord! what will become
 of me? Thinking the Devil had mistaken
 me for himself, and that he was horning
 me on his back to carry me off; where-
 upon he fell again to praying so loud, that
 my mistress and the maids ran to see what
 was the meaning of it: fear still kept so
 strong possession of him, that he could not
 at first be persuaded but they were some of
 the Devil's imps.

THEY believed for a while that he was
 fallen mad; but, finding out the cause of
 his

his fears, they made him sensible of his mistake, and that they were not damned spirits as yet : But pray, my dear, said my mistress, what is it that has so alarmed you ?

O ! I will tell you all, answered he : Being pinched and shook, I supposed, by some evil spirits, I awaked in the night, and heard no noise at first but the creaking of boards in the floor, and then saw a thing in white, bigger than both the giants in Guildhall, walk across the room ; presently after, I heard the rattling of chains, the stools and chairs were tossed about the room, and the bed, with I in it, raised up to the ceiling ; when I just ventured to peep my head out, I saw, standing by me, a composition of meer bones, with a shrowd thrown over them, like an Irish brachin or Scotch plad, with a lighted taper in one hand ; but I know not what use he could make of it, for
where

where there should have been eyes there were only sockets, and an hour glass in the other: he grinned at me with his teeth, lips he had none; then, shaking his chains, vanished.

My mistress afterwards told me, she had much ado to refrain from bursting into a violent laughter, but kept it in for fear of incensing her good man, who was not, for a long time, to be persuaded to lie any more in that chamber, which made me curse the strength of his imagination, that had forced him to bed to his wife, and thereby deprived me of the pastime both she and I had proposed to ourselves. For my part, I thought he would never have returned to his own chamber again, for he trembled when he passed through it in the day time. But, soon after, another accident happened that cured him of part of his ridiculous conceit. It chanced, that, on a beam that went cross the cellar,

VOL. I.

U

there

there were a great quantity of tenter hooks to hang meat on, and for other uses; and the cat, being in quest of the game, her fore feet slipping, she was strangely caught by the tail with one of them, and not able to recover herself, being greatly pained by the hook, made a most hideous squawling, which occasioned the dog to bark; and my master and mistress being awakened by the noise, he asked her, if she would now believe her own ears, and what she thought of the house being haunted with evil spirits now. At first, she confessed to me, she knew not what to think of it, for, being but a young sinner, her conscience was not so thoroughly scared, but that she had some remorse for the crimes she had committed, and was almost afraid that Satan was sent to buffet her. But having a more masculine spirit, and not so easily daunted as her husband, she hearkened farther, and then judged that thieves had
broke

broke into the house. My master was all this while almost breathing his last at both ends, whilst my mistress, jumping out of bed, came to my door, and bade me rise in all haste, for there were thieves in the house. I confess I had no great mind to be killed, and therefore was not over and above expeditious in hurrying on my cloaths; but now, buttoning my Doublet, anon I unbuttoned it again, and my mistress perceiving the delays I made, came again towards my chamber, and taxed me with cowardice and want of spirit; this roused me, and made me resolve to adventure any thing rather than forfeit her good opinion.

My mistress and the maids (for by this time they were got out too) were only in their smocks and under petticoats; so, at the head of these amazons, I marched boldly down the stairs, and groped about in every hole I found big enough for a

man to get into. Descending at length into the cellar, we plainly saw the cause of all our fear and distraction hanging by the tail. It was agreed that the cat should be carried up, and the wound in his tail shewed to my master, to convince him how much he had suffered himself to be terrified by vain fears, when all the noise proceeded only from poor puffs.

WHEN my master heard us on the stairs, he imagined we had been all destroyed, and the rogues were now coming to dispatch him. Whereupon, as we entered the room, he roared out, "Ay! save my life! and take all I have." His wife, tho' hardly able to speak without laughing, bade him be quite, there was no harm, nor likely to be any; then shewed him the bleeding posteriors of the boot cat: My master, ashamed to think he had discovered so much timidity on so trifling an occasion; the next night, that
the

the whole house might see what a man of courage he was, ventured to lie again in his own bed by himself; which gave my mistress and I an opportunity to renew our amorous commerce.

WHAT with the private presents I received from my mistress, and the private use I made of my curling-irons in the till, I now began to have a pretty handsome stock of money by me, and this was daily increasing; so that I thought I might live abroad like a gentleman, and get again into company. I purchased a very fine gelding, which I kept at a distance from my master's house, and frequently rid out to take the air; at night I was often at the playhouse, especially at the Nursery in Hatton-Garden, where a young fellow of my acquaintance, who had been a neighbour's apprentice, was an actor; with him, and three or four more of the same stamp, I used to spend money very lavishly.

ly ; and this I was enabled to do by my mistress's great bounty, if I had no other way of getting any ; for she seldom saw a piece of gold in my master's hand, but she would be begging it of him with no other intent but to give it to me, besides all she could save in her own expences and house-keeping, for she knew that nothing served more to cement affection than the fodder of gold. My master seldom denied her any thing ; for, like a true cuckold, he was extremely fond of his wife ; but when he did, she would take pet, and would not eat ; then, binding her head with a clout, looked very pitifully, with many such arts as have a strange effect upon good-natured men : if he asked her what she ailed, and what she was troubled at, she would reply, " At nothing more " than your unkindness, which I believe, " in time, will break my heart ;" and then she would weep plentifully, for she had tears at command ; at the sight of which
the

the dotard could not help blubbering too ; and then, to make an attonement for his crime, would give her something of three times the value she had asked for before, which was all to my advantage : and I made good use of my time ; for, notwithstanding I spent a deal of money, I laid up every day (like the provident ant) against winter.

A YOUNG man, whom I used to take a frolicksome jaunt with sometimes, knowing what great fums of money we returned at our shop, had like to have drawn me into a scrape, which would have cut the thread of this history very short ; for I had certainly been hanged before I had come to the three hundredth page of it, if I had engaged in the business that, by his means, was proposed to me. He was daily in company with a fellow who was
both

both a clipper and coiner, * trades very much in vogue at that time: this man, it seems, was a decayed Goldsmith, ruined by the study of Chymistry, and now lived by particular parts of it; as transmuting metals, &c. My friend having told him, that he was acquainted with one who was cashier and book-keeper to an eminent wholesale trader, and that great sums of money passed through his hands, the other begged of all things to be brought into my company; thinking, without doubt, that I would be very serviceable to him. Accordingly, at my friend's request, (not knowing his trade) I was brought to several meetings with him,

* These were called, according to the cant, Correctors and Matter-men.

Before

before any thing was proposed to me ; but we were very merry, drank plentifully, and, by being exceeding complaisant, we began to be pretty intimate. After which, the discourse happening to be upon Chymistry, I sat very mute, not understanding any thing of the matter, yet could not but admire to hear my new acquaintance relate the wonders he could perform in that mysterious art. Pulling a piece of gold out of his pocket, he asked me my opinion of it, and what I took it to be : I answered, that I could judge it to be no other than it seemed, pure gold. He, smilingly replied, No wonder it should deceive you, since it would the most critical Goldsmith in town. No doubt, said he, you have heard of the Philosopher's Stone, and what vast estates some have mispent in the search of it : how ineffectual all their labour and pains have been is apparent by their wretched condition : but in my art there is no deceit, for I can really

really convert the basest metals into gold and silver ; see this piece, said he, which, according to the terms of our art, is called a Black-Dog, with Queen Elizabeth's Head ; this is only pewter double-washed. Then here is a George Plateroon, being copper, with a thin plate of silver to cover it ; and here is a metal called Compositum, which will cut and touch, but will not bear the fire. Now if you have a mind to deal this way, I can afford English cloth ; so we call our own coin, at ten shillings a yard, that is, twenty shillings for ten good ones, and an hundred per cent. is no small profit in trade. So much for the first branch of our business. And in the other, if, as you have large sums of money pass through your hands, you will lay aside some of the handsomest pieces for me ; when I have corrected them a little, for broad brimmed hats are now quite out of fashion, I will return
them

them to you with eighteen pence in the pound for interest.

ALL this while I gave him great attention without any interruption ; but here, making a stop, I thought he expected my answer : so I thanked him for the proffer of his service to me ; and told him, I did not doubt of the interest that was to be made by it ; but, as there was much hazard in it, I begged a little time to consider of it. He looked very blank upon this, fearing, I suppose, that I made this demur, only to betray him ; and I saw by his countenance, he wished he had been more sparing in his expressions. I must needs confess I trembled all the time I was in his company after I understood his trade ; but I assured him, he was very safe in me, and that I would never divulge the secret he had let me into ; but, as to my engaging with him, it required a serious consultation with myself,
and

and I would, when I came to a resolution, send him an answer by my friend ; so we parted. I spent the greatest part of the night in weighing his proposals in the balance of profit and preservation, and found that life's preservation outweighed all other considerations, and that riches would avail but little when a man was riding post to the gallows. And how could I hope to escape better than others, who were almost daily prosecuted on the same account : so I sent him a letter, in which I assured him, as before, that I would never betray him, but had no thoughts of accepting his generous offer. My new friend did not think it worth while to send me an answer, nor did I ever see him more, 'till the day that he went to be executed at Tyburn ; which lot, no doubt, I had shared with him, if I had lifted under his banner ; for great numbers were taken up at the same time that he was ; some were found out working

ing

ing in the obscurest places in deep woods; others in a cave on Blackheath; and their ringleader taken in a cellar of his own house; whose tools, though he had timely notice to removethem, were discovered in the mantle-piece of a chimney, made hollow on purpose to conceal them, with a shutter artfully contrived at one end, so that he must have been betrayed by one who knew his secrets.

AFTER the dismal catastrophe of these hazardous fools, I had like to have been brought into great trouble, though not at all guilty of what I was likely to be accused of. The affair was this: A knavish fellow, who had been a hanger-on, upon some of the gentlemen correctors just executed, who spent their money lavishly enough, being now out of all other ways of getting any thing to support him, turned informer, and having had notice of my being two or three times in com-

pany with one of the chief among them, came to me one evening, and desired to speak with me in private, which I consenting to, we went to a tavern, and, after a few formalities to usher in the discourse, he told me, that I was taken notice of as a dispenser of counterfeit coin, and that there would be a warrant to apprehend me in a day or two, that this business, if neglected, might prove to my utter destruction; and that, if I thought it worth while to reward him for his trouble, he believed he could put me in a way to stop all proceedings.

I IMMEDIATELY saw the rogue thro' his disguise; and being bold, as I knew myself innocent, instead of giving him thanks I gave him a blow, with all my force, in his face, and then rang the bell to alarm the house. The rascal being well assured that he should find no mercy, if he was known to be an informer, in a
public-

public-house, made all the haste he could to the stairs; and, making but two steps to the bottom, got clear off, and I never heard more of him.

THUS had I two near escapes; the first, from rejecting the proposals of my friend, the Chymist; and now, from the designs of this villainous informer; and so far from being a prisoner, my time being out in a few days, I was made free. My master solicited me to stay with him a little longer as a journeyman, which I readily agreed to, knowing it could be but a little longer, for my mistress and I had so peeled him, that if he had had as many coats as an onion, we should hardly have left him one to his back. His creditors began to visit him daily, and his whole study was how to make fair promises, and get excuses for making them call again. In the danger he was in he never stirred abroad, nor even came into the shop. So

having no body to watch me, or at least, that dared to controul me, I conveyed away a great quantity of his goods, intending them for my own use, and stowed them in a warehouse, which I had lately very privately hired for that purpose.

My Master, one night, told me, in great confidence, that he intended to pack up his goods, and to gather in what money he could, and then he would embark for Ireland, taking his wife with him. Hearing that the wife was to go, as I did, at that time, really love her, I shewed the greatest concern imaginable, and I believe my grief was expressed in my eyes, which he perceiving, the tears trickled down his cheeks to keep mine company. Well now, said he, I see thou lovest me, and thou hast ever been a faithful servant; but the dearest friends must part: then he wept again; however, I have the comfort of this hope, that we shall

shall see one another in Heaven. I had rather, thought I, see thee in the Competer, for that may prevent my mistress's going to Ireland ; and I am sure it would have been a heart-breaking sentence to me to have had her left me just then : so, from that minute, I contrived how I might make sure of her, by securing him. This was, I own, very ungrateful and barbarous ; but what will not love break through to satisfy its ends, when it has got into the heart of one so little used to any sentiments of virtue as I was at these years. My mistress and I consulted what to do, and sometimes we were in the mind to take what money the old fool had, and run away together ; but that appearing dangerous, we thought of another scheme, and that was to get him arrested before his intended voyage to Ireland ; and then we should have the house to ourselves for a while at least.

ABOUT two days after, she informed me that he was, the next morning, to take horse at Islington by break of day, and so go away to West-Chester. I immediately sent away to one of his chief creditors an anonymous letter, letting him know my master's design, and he getting an officer ready, napt him just as he was going to mount his horse. He had not been long in custody before he sent for me, to advise with him what was best to be done in this his great extremity. I could do no less than seemingly to condole with him on his misfortunes, and pretended to be very active in running about to his creditors; but he had better have employed any other Solicitor, for my business was not to get him his liberty. When he found he must inevitably continue a prisoner, he brought a Duce, and removed himself to Ludgate; where, in a very short time, he broke his heart with grief.

In the mean time, my mistress had secured all she could; which, I managed, as I pleased. And, soon after, taking my master's shop and house, and bringing his own goods back into it again, might have lived in a flourishing condition, had not my extravagance and debaucheries prevented it. My mistress was very importunate with me to marry her. I confessed I loved her very well, but not enough to make her my wife; though now she found herself with child, and was continually pressing me to save her reputation: but nothing could prevail; I knew she had made one husband a cuckold, and could not be assured she would not do so by the next. Besides, matrimony was always my aversion; and, as it commonly is among young fellows, who fancy themselves wits, the chief subject of my ridicule.

WHEN

WHEN the time of her travail drew near, I took a lodging for her in the country ; and, for the last fortnight, so great a concern I had for her, I continued constantly with her. Being in strong labour, she called for me hastily, and getting my hand within her's, farewell, said she, I die for you, your unkindness, in not granting my last request of making me your wife, untimely ends my days ; then she groaned, and, kissing my hand, cried, " Love my memory however ;" and spoke not another word : the child died likewise. This was a sorrowful scene, and the more durable, as I had none of my companions with me to wash away the thoughts of it in good claret.

AFTER the interment of my late mistress and her child, which I took care to have done in a very decent manner, I returned to my house, where I found that my long absence had raised a suspicion in
my

my neighbours that I had run away, which did not rest there; but the report soon spread among my creditors, and made them both importunate and impatient with me for their money. Some, that would not be put off with promises, I was forced to pay, from others I got time, which gave me liberty to prosecute my former courses; spending the greatest part of my time either in taverns or bawdy-houses, though I had a Phillis at home; for I would never take a maid that I thought not handsome, and I commonly got the better of her chastity, if she had any, by presents, or, at worst, a promise to marry her, if she proved with child. When I was weary of one, I easily found a pretence for a quarrel, and payed her off, that I might get another, who would, in a short time, be wrought upon, as well as her predecessors, being ambitious to lie with her master, and foolishly thinking that, the first step to preferment,

ment, the next to be sure must be marriage, and becoming mistress of the house. In the three years I was set up for myself, I had no less than nine bastards; four of them by my maids, which was a vast expence to me. Two of the jades would have forced me to have married them, or provide for them, if I had not, by a while, got them down the river, and so on board a vessel bound for Virginia, where I left them, as I had my first love, Tabitha, to the mercy of the Captain and his crew.

THE danger I was in from my creditors, the expences of my ladies, but more especially the kindness of one of them, which obliged me to stay at home, and take physick, made me begin to look a little into myself, and resolve to reform. I was no sooner able to come down into my shop, but I applied myself diligently to business, giving my constant attendance there, and never drank with any but

in my own house. Every body admired at this strange reformation, and it was the discourse of the whole neighbourhood. The parson of the parish hearing how much I was altered, came to pay me a visit, which was something extraordinary indeed ; for, before this, no one, who had the least regard to his character, would be seen in my company, lest they should be suspected to be as extravagant and debauched as myself ; for there is no observation more common than,

Pares cum paribus facillime congregantur ;

Birds of a feather will flock together.

I RECEIVED the Doctor with great respect ; and I assured him, that my reformation was sincere, and I hoped I should never be the same man again that I had been : withal giving him to understand,

stand, that I had a most profound reverence for the Clergy ; that, said he, is very good ; for having a respect for the Clergy is almost the sum total of all religion ; for if you respect them, you will mind what they say, and do as they bid you, and believe as they would have you. I am very well satisfied of this, said I, and I am sure will never presume to believe for myself. He told me, he found I was a very hopeful young man, and he would take the liberty of calling upon me often ; which I did not at all doubt, when I had asked him to dine with me, and saw what a stomach he had.

In this seeming strictness of life I continued for some months, and my neighbours thought so well of me, that I had several considerable matches proposed to me ; but, as I have said before, matrimony was always my aversion : however, it was at length my misfortune to see one
whom

whom I thought the Phoenix of her sex, and to whom I was afterwards married, I believe, as a punishment for all my crimes.

HER parents were wealthy, and her portion more than I could reasonably expect. During the time of my courtship, she appeared so modest, that I could not imagine an unchaste thought had ever entered into her mind : but, on the first night of our new state, I had much reason to believe my Lucretia was no maid. This struck me with amazement, that were such spotless virgin-like innocence adorned the face, there should be such black guilt in the heart. I was much perplexed, but dared not give vent to my suspicions, but one-half year put all that matter out of doubt, by my wife's being brought to bed three months before her time ; and yet the bawd, her midwife, would have made me believe this was

usual, and that children, brought forth at six months end, might live, and do very well.

Now began our domestic wars, which were carried on with such fury, that, in a short time, there was hardly an utensil in the kitchen that had not flown at one or the other's head. My dearee, in her single state, had acted the part of the Silent Woman as well as Mrs. Epicœne had ever done it on the stage; for, before we were married, all her answers were comprehended in the two short monosyllables of Ay and No, and those seem to be extorted from her by meer force; but, after her lying-in, her tongue was in perpetual motion, the noise of a belfry was nothing to the din in my house. If I had had a Coppersmith on one side of me, with a Pewterer on the other; a Fencing Master over my head, and a repeating Poet lodged beneath me: all these together

gether would have been rest and quietness compared to the continual clamours of my Xanippe's vociferous harmony. Frequent were her complaints to her Father and mother, so that their affections, being entirely alienated from me, they only studied how to get rid of me; her forgeries, to excuse her diabolical practices, incensed them to that degree, that they laid an embargo on that part of her portion, not yet paid, advising her withal to secure what she could for her own preservation. She followed their instructions so exactly, that, in a short time, I found myself in a very declining condition, yet knew not the cause 'till it was too late for a remedy. She had conveyed away part of my goods, and a great deal of my money, part of which went to supply her stallion.

I was, for a long while, jealous of something like this, but had not ocular

demonstration, 'till one night, feigning myself to be dead drunk, I caused myself to be brought home upon the back of a porter; my wife received me in that pickle; and, as I could perceive, by peeping a little out of my eye-lids, with much satisfaction: I was immediately carried up to bed, and undressed with great difficulty, pretending myself asleep all the while, and then my precious spouse left me, and presently sent away the bawd, her maid, to order her friend to come to her that evening. About nine o'clock the maid was posted away to bed, and at ten I heard a small rap at the door, my wife's gallant, for such I afterwards found him, had no occasion to wait long, for there was one ready to receive him; when I judged they were encircled in each others arms, which I understood by listening on the stairs, and thereby knew what they were about, I rushed in upon them with a drawn sword, which I had prepared

pared for the purpose, designing to have rivetted them together ; but, making a thrust at them, I only run it through the fleshy part of both their thighs. At which they made a most hideous outcry, so that the maid came running down, and the Watchman that stood just at my door, hearing the noise, knocked hard to be let in to see what was the matter ; the maid, apprehending the danger, opened the door to him, who, by the help of his candle, saw the strange sight, for I pinned them together, so that they could not stir : as well as they could speak, they both begged for their lives, which I granted them, my revenge being somewhat satisfied.

THERE was no concealing this affair ; wherefore, in the morning early, I acquainted her parents with what had happened, insisting upon it, that, since she had thus violently broke the marriage-chain instead of putting it off handsomely,

I would never more be fastened in it. To which I added, that if I had denied her any thing that was requisite for her, or not performed my duty duly, she would have some pretence for slighting me, and might have looked upon me only as a false crow set up in a garden, to keep others from the fruit it cannot taste itself; but, since it is otherwise, and that she could complain of nothing but my sometimes endeavouring to curb her inordinate desires. I expected they would remove her elsewhere, without my having recourse to the law to tear her from me, which would but the more expose us all.

THEY replied not much, but hastening to their daughter, and fearing worse mischief might ensue, instantly conveyed her into the country. Her wounds were soon cured; and then, not being able to endure a rural and decent life, she returned to
the

the city, where she now lives, and, no doubt of it, gives a loose to her wishes.

It was my hard fate to marry thus-like one, who, being doomed to a prison, was in hopes of getting a private room there to himself ; but was disappointed by being forced on the common-side. It is strange that I, of all men, should be deceived, who had known such variety of mischiefs from the sex. Had I not been blinded by my passion, I might easily have seen that her carriage, in my presence, was only like that of a Player acting a part ; and that her natural inclinations were hid under the veil of silence, and seeming modesty. But since I have had such ill luck in marriage myself, I shall endeavour to give the gentle reader some instructions, that may serve to him as land-marks, or light-houses, at sea.

LOVE,

Love, it is confessed, is a natural distemper, like the small-pox ; most have either had it, or are to expect it, and the sooner it comes the better : surely I was never well cured of it, or I had not thus fallen into a relapse. Want of knowledge misguided me at first, and so I fell into a quagmire ; but I should think myself possessed if I should ever go voluntarily into another. The seeds of love, when grown up to matrimony, generally bring forth nothing but dissatisfaction and sorrow ; yet nothing will content some monopolizers but marriage, thinking thereby to engross the whole woman, who, perhaps, is never so little your own as then. For if she is young, she is like an hawk upon her wing ; and if she is handsome, she is the more subject to go out at check. Faulkeners, that can but seldom spring right game, should still have something to take them down. The lure, to which all stoop in this world, is either

gar-

garnished with profit or pleasure ; and, when you cannot throw her the one, you must be content to shew out the other. Consider again, that woman, besides the trouble, is a rent-charge, which, though the curiosity of man, doth often attempt to inclose ; yet is there one gap, that, for his life, he cannot so well stop, but it will lie open to a stragler ; and then what boots all his pains ? Was a woman secured like a fortified town, yet even there the falli-port is open to let in friends : if men give not their wives permission to do as they list, they must wink when they take it, or do worse : cross them, and they will not leave a cross in your pocket if they can help it. Take it in any shape, and marriage is the dearest way of curing love.

C H A P. VII.

JEREMY cheats his creditors by knavishly breaking, and runs away for Ireland. He is shipwrecked on the Isle of Man; arrives in Dublin, and changes his name.

WHILST my credit was good, I thought good to make use of it, lest (that failing) I might want an opportunity to march off with flying colours. To raise my reputation among my neighbours, who I knew would spread abroad what they had seen, I caused a Porter, whom I had entrusted with a hundred pounds, to bring that, with four or five hundred pound bags more, filled only with saw-dust and half pence, and deliver them to me on my compter, when I had a couple of neighbours invited purposely to drink a glass of wine with me,
in

in my compting-house, within the shop. The Porter brought them openly upon his back, and, having delivered them according to my directions, I presently tumbled out the money from the full bag, making a great noise with it ; then, as if I laid it by to take another bag, I put up one of the sham hundreds, repeating this five times ; after which I told the bearer it was very right ; and, making as if I wrote a receipt, I gave it to him, with my humb'le service to the gentleman, and bade him say, I was sure he would find the goods answer his expectation. This device did I use three or four time in the space of a month, for sometimes less and larger sums ; which made my neighbours report that I was a man of vast dealings : so that I had goods daily offered me ; some whereof I took upon three months credit, and some on fix. The commodities I soon turned into money, at any rate, and so marched off, leaving my creditors to take

take out a statute of bankruptcy if they thought proper, or use any other methods to recover their losses, I cared not what, when once I got out of their reach. To my chief creditor I sent the following lines, that he might not tax me with incivility in going away without giving him notice of it.

Credit doth strengthen such whose trades are weak,

But too much credit, Sir, did make me break ;

Credit, to sinking tradesmen, is a prop,

But, had you kept your wares, I'd kept my shop.

Pray don't blame me, Sir, because I show

A way to pay those many debts you owe :

Which you may do, if you'll advised be,

To take the hint, and forthwith follow me.

Believe me, honest Sir, in what I say,

I went before, but to shew you the way :

But if you will not, don't lament your loss,

For in your money I do bear the cross.

Grief will distract you, and destroy your wit,

Which you should keep, I'm sure you've paid

for it.

AFTER

AFTER I had packed up some goods and things of value, which I sent by Long Sea to Dublin, I rid post for Holy-Head, night and day, so that I arrived there in a very short time ; going to dismount, I tumbled off my horse, and had much ado to rise again, I was so fatigued with my journey : the next day I made a shift to walk abroad to view the rarities of the town, but found nothing rare in it but handsome women, civility, and good drink. In two days time we set sail, and had not run above three leagues before the sky darkened, the wind blew hard at South-east, and the waters rose mountains high : In an hour's time we were forced to cut our masts by the board, and lightening the ship as much as we could let her drive. Every one fell to prayers, expecting, each moment, when they should be swallowed up by the sea. As for my part, I now thought the Divine vengeance had overtaken me, and would

reckon with me for all my rogueries at once : I looked on myself as a Jonas, and was much troubled that others should suffer for my iniquities.

ABOUT three o'clock in the morning we heard a hideous noise, occasioned by the beating of the sea against the rocks, which was echoed to, by the loud and lamentable cries of the seamen, who thought we were passed all hopes : now could I have prayed heartily, who had never prayed in my life before ; but my devotion was soon spoiled by the ship's striking in between two rocks ; I looked out, and, methought, the dashing of the waves seemed perfectly like flashes of fire. Here she stuck for a while, which gave five of us an opportunity to leap out upon a rock : we were no sooner there before a wave fetched her off ; and then, immediately bringing her on again, split her all to pieces. We sitting astride the rock, behind

hind one another, like so many offending foot-soldiers on the wooden-horse. Sometimes a wave would dash clever over us, which endangered our being washed off; and sometimes we thought to let go our hold, thinking our preservation to be next to an impossibility, and especially as we thought the tide was coming in. At length the hindmost gave way, and, with a short ejaculation, committed himself to the merciless ocean. Immediately came a roaring sea and washed off the next; and now did I expect that every wave would prove my executioner; but it was not decreed, I suppose, that I should be drowned.

At break of day we could discern, that we were not above a stone's throw from the shore, and that the sea was ebbing; in an hour after, or thereabouts, we made a shift to crawl to the shore, for we could not walk our joints were so benumbed by

the cold. We got up the beach, and could perceive, at a little distance, a small cottage ; thither we repaired with much difficulty, and were kindly entertained, pitied, and informed, that we were in the Isle of Man, where we stayed about a week, without one farthing of expence, for the inhabitants are always very civil and courteous, and especially to strangers.

FROM this island, we embarked for Dublin, and landed at a place called Ringsend, about a mile from that city. Here I was asked if I would have a coach. Where are any, said I ? for I looked about me, and could see nothing like a coach ; the fellow, who asked me the question, took me for a very ignorant person, because I understood not what he meant ; and angrily cried out, “ By my gossip’s hand, thou canst not see a great deal at all ; arra, look you now, here is one by
thine

thine own side." It was some time before I could tell what language he spoke, the brogue was so strong upon him. As for his Ringsend coach, as he called it, it was wheel-barrow fashion, only it had two wheels somewhat bigger than a large Cheshire cheese; and the horse that drew this princely vehicle, I, at first, mistook for an over-grown mastiff, in this equipage, neither coached nor carted, I made my entry into Dublin, a place that I found sheltered more rogues than myself. When I had secured a pretty good lodging, the better to disguise myself, I sent for a Barber to shave of my hair, and bring me a peruke of a quite different colour, to the intent, that if I should meet any of my former acquaintance they might not know me; and indeed in this new trim I hardly knew myself. The greatest difficulty I now had, was to make myself familiar with my new name, for I had changed that of Jeremy Sharp to Martin

Laroon: at first when my landlady called me by that name, I either stared her in the face, or looked behind me, thinking she'd spoke to somebody else; and then, to excuse my behaviour, was forced to pretend thickness of hearing.

I DAILY met several that I had known in London, but took no cognizance of them, lest they should send an account of me to some, who would have given a good deal to know where I was. I had now been in Dublin above a month, and in all that time received no tidings of my goods from England, and all that I had brought with me was consumed. My landlady, like a true Irishwoman, having but little faith, called upon me for what I owed her. With much ado I stopped her mouth for a while, by telling her I had a considerable quantity of goods and money coming, which I expected by every fair wind; but I soon after heard, that the
ship

ship they were in was cast away. Now did I think again the wrath of Heaven attended my fraud and knaveries, and my old reflection came cross my mind, that nothing thus got would ever stay with me.

My misfortune I kept to myself, knowing, by the discovery of it, that I should at first only reap some pity, and afterwards be undervalued and despised. My hostess again was very importunate with me to have her reckoning; I endeavoured to put her off, saying, I daily expected bills of exchange, but she would not believe me; for I found she had been often deceived by such pretences. Now did I not know what to do, but thought to try another method; for, being a widow, I fancied I might be able to work upon her female frailty; therefore I used all possible means to get her alone, which I did but seldom, for she was a fine gentlewoman,
and

and what is called a prude; but when I had her by myself, I used abundance of rhetoric to persuade her into a belief that I was violently in love with her. She made little answer to all I said, understanding my drift, I verily believe, sometimes she would say, Come, come, away with these love-fooleries, and pay me what you owe me. Then would I tell her all I enjoyed, and myself too, were properly her's, and that she might take them whenever she pleased into her possession. No, no, said she, my youthful days are past, it is time for me to think of Heaven, and have done with the follies of this world.

SINCE words had no effect, I resolved to use other means; and knowing how difficult it is for a woman in bed to refuse a warm proffer of love, I stole softly one night into her bed-chamber, and groping with my hand for her face, I
 caught

caught a man by the beard. At which he awaked, and thinking the Devil was come to trim him, would have cried out aloud, but fear had so locked up his voice, that his highest note was little louder than a whisper; I could but just hear him say, "In the name of ——— what art?" I am, said I, no ghost, but a living witness of your concupiscence, to that intent I came hither to be fully satisfied of what I have long suspected. As for you, Madam, your youthful days are passed, but your lust will endure for ever. If this be your way to Heaven, why were you so uncharitable as not to let me go along with you? As for your part, Sir, I suppose you will be soon there, for I guess you very lately came out of purgatory.

To be short, they both intreated me to be silent, and to retire to my own lodging-room; and assured me, that, in
the

the morning, they would talk with me to my own satisfaction. This was all that I aimed at, though not brought about in the manner I intended. Early in the morning they both came to me: the pious gentlewoman, being very tender of her credit, told me, she would freely forgive me my debt, if I would promise not to blast her reputation, by reporting what I had discovered; her gallant likewise gave me five guineas to bind the bargain: so, having got a discharge under her hand, I sealed our contract with an oath, and we took leave of one another very civilly.

I TOOK myself a new lodging; and the very next night went to a gaming-table, where, from these five pieces, I expected to raise a mountain of gold, for I thought I understood the best of the lay, and was not quite ignorant in the ingenious arts of cogging and palming; but here I met
with

with an over-match, and had not one cross left, when I went home supperless to bed, with what anxiety of mind I leave any losing gamester at liberty to imagine. I acquainted my landlord with my misfortune, who seemed much to condole with me at present, but it was afterwards the occasion of his not crediting me. From hence I would advise all to speak as little as they can of any ills that befall them, for as good success always meets with approbation, so let the accident be never so unavoidable, the man is always blamed that miscarries.

PERCEIVING my landlord grew cold, my spirit was too high to be any longer beholding to him for my lodging, wherefore I seldom came home until night, making a hard shift to skulk about for a dinner among some of my countrymen, to whom I told a plausible story, of great returns I expected from England. Every Morning I offered up my devotions, either
to

to St. Patrick or St. James, who have each of them an excellent well, dedicated to the honour of their Saint-ships. But one day having fasted long, and not having a stiver in my pocket, as I was bewailing my hard fate, and walking with down-cast eyes, it was my good fortune to find a crooked sixpence, which I caught up with transport, and immediately transported myself to a Cook's shop.

THE good woman of the house asked me what I would please to have, I told her any thing that was eatable, that would come within the compass of a teaster; whereupon she brought me some hot roast beef, and went to draw me some drink, but before she could return, I had swallowed all my meat, I was so exceeding hungry; she then brought more, and I dispatched that almost as soon, and when I had done, I offered her my sixpence; truly, she said, that would not do, I had
had

had two fixpenny-worths, I told her that was all the money I had about me, but that I would pay her the next day: She was not satisfied with this, but told me plainly, that she must have her reckoning now; well then, said I, stay a little, so when her back was turned, I attempted to make my escape, but she was too nimble for me, and caught me by the flap of my coat; then had I no way to come off but by telling her a pitiful story, and at the same time larding my discourse with some pieces of flattery upon her charming looks, which denoted both good sense and good nature: What woman is proof against flattery? I found she began to look smirkingly upon me; why truly, young man, said she, you tell me a melancholy tale of your losses and distresses, and you have so much honesty in your countenance, (here she returned my compliment) that I cannot help believing all you say; and if you will accept of a bed in my house,

you shall be welcome to it, 'till you have remittances from England, I made not many words to this bargain, but joyfully embraced both my landlady and her offer.

I WAS laid in a good room, and the kind landlady made very much of me, bringing me a sack-posset at night when I was going to bed. I told her I was afraid it would be impossible for me to make a return answerable to so many favours: O! my dear honey, replied she, rowling her pretty pigsneps to and fro in her bacon face, I require no return but thy love. We made not many ceremonies like puling whining lovers, that are always saying grace, but never fall to, for we immediately clasped one another round the waist, and, by the help of imagination, I had a Venus in my arms instead of this Succubus.

WHEN-

WHENEVER I wanted a small sum, a kiss or two, or the bare saying, I loved her, would extract enough from her for my present occasions ; but if I wanted a larger sum, why then a quarter of an hour's discourse in private effected my ends. Being quite choaked up with the smook of the city, I had a longing desire to take some fresh air in the country. I acquainted my patroness herewith, who condescended to my request, but with a great deal of regret, and upon condition that I should promise to return in two days. The morning that I set out, there was as solemn a leave taken, as if I had been going a voyage to the East-Indies. Well, there is no fool like an old doating fool ; and were I again to love for interest, I would chuse such another person : your young skittish things, who know they are handsome, think they do a man such a favour, by admitting him to a little familiarity, that they can never be suf-

ciently rewarded for; whereas a woman, a little stricken in years, whose youthful allurements are gone, knowing she hath nothing but her wealth to attract withal, will freely part with it for self satisfaction, and that she may not lose her paramour, constantly encourage him even to the exhausting her own substance. If she finds the man answer her expectations, she will study how to please him in every thing, that he may please her in one.

BUT to proceed : coming to Ballemore-Eustace, which is in the county of Wicklow; a little beyond the town, there is a small river in the summer-time, not above knee-deep; I perceived a young woman about to cross it, who, drawing near the water, stood not upon the modest niceties of her sex, but pulled up her cloaths to her waist. This sight made me stop, and as near as I could just over against her. She regarded me not, but came strait over
to

to me, and, at about three yards distance, let down her coats, I observed so many excellencies in this beautiful object, that my blood boiled, and my flesh was all in an uproar: for her hair, which curled naturally, was of a bright flaxen, and each hair in the sun glittered like a fine thread of gold.

HERE take notice, that the maids, for the most part, winter and summer, go without any covering on their heads, which they wash all over every night. The meaner sort, as soon as they are married, wear kerchers. She had an angelical countenance, only somewhat brownish, by the sun's frequently kissing it; but I know not whether it made her the less beautiful. As to the skin of her body it might dispute with the snow for whiteness. I dismounted, and addressed myself to her in English; which she, not understanding, answered me in her own lan-

guage. Then did I make use of the little Irish I had learnt ; which, as most young people begin with, were only some few finutty expressions ; to which she replied, but I understood her not. To be brief, I so far prevailed, that I got her into a small wood, where the thick and spreading tops of the trees seemed to lay their heads together, to contrive not only how to keep out the sun, but also the curious search of any mortal eye. My young Damsel permitted me to kifs, dally, and lay my hands upon her breasts and thighs, which I only looked upon as the prelude of what was to follow ; but herein I was much mistaken, for the disposition of these young Irish lasses is quite different from that of the English, with whom, when you can gain the liberty of making use of the hand, you may make use of what you please ; but it is quite otherwise with the first, who, without the least opposition, will suffer you to stray about where you
have

have a mind with your hands ; but, even then, you are as far from obtaining the main point as ever ; for, as soon as she saw me ready to engage, she cried out incessantly, “Whillallalloo, Whillallalloo;” and I could hear this ululation echoed. When I had just recovered my horse, two or three fellows came running to me; one with a flail, and the rest with long poles. The first salutation I received was from the flail, which was very near doing my business. The next my horse’s crupper received ; which, the poor beast, being well bred, could do no less than return with the salute of one of his hind legs, and that brought down one of the fellows; but the other two stood so stiffly to me that I knew not what course to take.

THE villains were so nimble, that one of them was continually before me, hindering my flight, whilst the other drubbed me forward. At length, I bethought myself

myself of a pistol I had in my pocket, charged only with powder, so I drew it out, and presenting it, pretended I would fire if they did not desist; but these stupid wretches apprehended not the danger, and never moved, upon which I fired full in the face of him who fronted me, who verily believed he had been shot, and so out of meer conceit, for the rusticks are very timorous, he dropped down as if he was dead, which, the other seeing, ran away as swift as lightning, and so I was at liberty to ride on, which I did with great speed. Lovers may talk what they will of their sufferings, by their mistresses frowns and hard-heartedness, but let any one judge of mine by the blows I received; sighing is nothing to fighting, and a few moist tears are not to come in competition with dry-basting. Pox on them, they made me out of conceit with love for six weeks after. I never thought of enjoying a woman since, but the remembrance

branch of those three bog-trotters converted the hot fit into an ague.

A LITTLE way from Baltinglass I took up my quarters for that night. The inn I lay in was one story high, about the height of an ordinary pigsty, and there was one chimney in it too, more than is to be found in one of an hundred such hovels. The good man welcomed me after his fashion, but I think an Anthropophagus, or Indian man-eater, would have done it as genteely. I bade him set up my horse by signs, for that was the language we conversed in; but, alas! there was no other stable but what was at the end of our kitchen; our dining-room, bed-chamber, pigsty, pantry, and buttery, being all one, without distinction or separation. Some few wattles, as they call them, were placed above indeed, and those made our hayloft. The only door of our inn was a large hurdle, much like that of a
sheep-

sheep-pen. The bannetree, or good wife of the house, could speak a little broken English : I asked her what I should have for supper ? Thou shalt have a supper, said she, for St. Patrick agra. I waited half an hour, expecting when she would lay down something to the fire ; but instead of that, she brings me a great wooden platter full of green leeks, with a good quantity of bay-salt strewed among them ; and a loaf of bread as black as if the meal had been wetted with ink. Seest thou, tere, St. Patrick did never eat better ting. I could not forbear smiling, which put her into a great passion ; for if a man eats not what they set before him, they think themselves highly affronted : therefore, that I might not offend my landlord and landlady too much, I seemed to eat, but conveyed what I took up on that pretence into my boots. After supper, I asked for a clean pipe, the woman brought me one about an inch long, and said, it was very
clean

clean, for her husband had not smoaked in it above twice or thrice at most. They offered me some snuff too, and that is one of the greatest compliments they can pay to any one. I then called for some drink, to try if that corresponded with the rest; and indeed it did so, for there was no swallowing it without chewing. Finding but little satisfaction, I desired to go to bed: that I should, instantly, they said; but I wondered where they intended to lay me. In a little while in came a lusty wench, with a bundle of rushes on her head, and spreading them on the ground, they were covered with a caddow, or rugg, and this was to be my bed, or none. Patience was my only comfort, so stripping myself to my drawers, and stockings, I laid myself down. About two hours after came in two cows, three or four pigs, some geese and ducks, which were not introduced before to shew their respect to me. All the family

mily being now within doors, the man, his wife, and two daughters, stripping themselves stark-naked, lay down altogether by my side; this was a little strange to me, and I could hardly forbear the two young ones, but that my late misfortune was so fresh in my memory.

I SLEPT very little all night; wherefore, early in the morning, I discharged my reckoning, and set forward for Dublin with all expedition, for I could not brook the entertainment in the country any longer. I would not ride the same way back that I came, but it might have been as well for me if I had; for, coming to a river that I was obliged to ford, I asked a fellow which was the safest place: he pretended to have no knowledge of what I said; wherefore, making signs to him, he answered me again with his hand, directing me to such a place; that, at the first step, my horse and I plunged over head-
and-

and-ears; and had not my horse been strong, we had both perished: with much difficulty we got up the bank on the other side, then looking behind me, the villain was got almost out of sight. Such mischief is sometimes in the hearts of these savage wretches against those of their own species, who have given them no offence.

HAVING thus narrowly escaped I arrived safe at Dublin, to the great joy of my old hostess, resolving, when next I undertook such a journey, I would steer by the compass of other men's experience. A little after my return, it was my chance to fall into the acquaintance of a young man, who was of a good lively wit, but very poor, having been driven to Dublin, on views like my own, and now made an end of all

he had in the world. I found means to be somewhat serviceable to this man, and he thought he could never do enough to requite me. When his heart was a little cheered, by having a small spell in his purse, he was a very merry companion, and I took much delight in his company.

ONE day, as we were walking together by the Custom-house, we saw several pipes and hogsheds of wine. Viewing all the places belonging thereto, said I, methinks it would be no difficult matter to steal one of these hogsheds, had I but assistance. "You shall not want mine, Sir, said my companion, even to the hazard of my life: and I can carry you, continued he, to a place (called Lazy-hill) to two or three lads of my acquaintance, one of whom has a boat, and they will be
glad

glad to join in the undertaking." So said, we went accordingly, and there informed them of our design; who, very readily, came into it, and promised to meet to put it in execution, the same night, about twelve of the clock, and they were as good as their words; having procured an empty hog-head, which we filled with water, and away we went in the boat. The tide ebbing, had left dry ground underneath the key, where I planted three of our company; instructing them, that as soon as they found the coast clear above, they should with flings, which they had for that purpose, leave the hog-head of water, and exchange it for one of wine; which done, they should march off immediately to the rendezvous we had appointed. I and my comrade marched up the Custom-house stairs, where we encountered with two

old Watchmen: they asked us what our business was there; we told them we had no other design but to drink with them, having got a little merry on the other side of the water, and so were resolved to be frolicksome. The old Watchmen were very joyful at this news; and so, giving one of them some money to fetch drink, the other conducted us to the Lodge. When the drink was come, they minded that so much, that they had forgotten their duty; so, while we plied them with bumpers, the rest of my comrades sheered off with the booty. There being five of us concerned, we scorned to turn our wine into money, but resolved to make merry with it as long as it lasted. Some of the jovial rogues found means to bring in some Westphalia hams, and other relishing bits;

bits ; we clubbed for music, and every one got his wench.

IN the height of all this jollity, word was brought me, that my old landlady was dangerously sick, and desired to speak with me instantly ; thinking this was only a fit of jealousy, and a call to satisfy her amorous itch, I made no great haste to obey her summons ; but at length I went, and as soon as I entered the doors, I was met with the sad tidings of her death. I ran up stairs not believing the report, because I would not have had it so ; but found it too true. Viewing her as she lay, I perceived her fist was clinched ; I took it into mine, and, wrenching it open, there dropped ten pieces of gold, which I conceived she intended to have bestowed on me, with her dying hand, as her last legacy. I conveyed them

privately into my pocket, and presently made enquiry how she had disposed of her estate; but I received little or no satisfaction therein, only, to my great grief and vexation, I heard she had oftentimes called to the very last upon me, having matters of great concern to communicate to me. I stayed not above two days in the house, and then was constrained to leave it.

SOME time after I met my obliged friend, who had assisted in stealing the hog'shead of wine; I related to him the misfortune I had just had; and he, like an experienced Stoic, advised me to bear my loss patiently, since it is below a man to repine at any fortuitous casualty, much more to sink under the weight of it. We discoursed much on what expedients we could find to
increase

increase our slender stocks, he propounded many ways, among the rest, that of turning highwayman, which I dissuaded him from, by telling him that money was very scarce, and that gentlemen of good estates would now travel thirty or forty miles with not money enough to make it worth while to attack them; not because they were afraid of being robbed, but that there was so little in the kingdom. Well then, said he, there is enough in the Exchequer; but, answered I, very difficult to come at, and I will not venture my neck for it. Hearing me talk thus, he looked on me very scornfully; saying, That fear was a passion unworthy to be lodged in the soul of man; and that there is nothing here which a man either should, or need to fear. And that no one ought to
 enjoy

enjoy any thing, who was afraid of venturing his neck for it.

WE had so hot a contest about this, that we parted in anger, and I never saw him afterwards, till I heard of his condemnation: which was occasioned by his putting in practice the project he had proposed to me of robbing the Exchequer; two or three more were concerned with him, and all of them were apprehended in the enterprise, for which they were tried and condemned. Hearing of this, I paid him a visit in prison, expressing much sorrow for what he was to suffer; but he only laughed at me for my pains. I desired him to be more serious, since three days would put a period to his life, and then he must give an account of what he had done; and said, however we might flatter ourselves

selves with hopes of forgiveness, yet, without a sincere repentance, we ought not to expect it. Prithee, said he, do not trouble thy head with such idle fancies, and so broke out into the most atheistical expressions; which, bad as I am myself, shocked even me, and is, by no means, fit to be repeated. I could no longer endure to hear his blasphemies, and so left him to the conviction of his own conscience, not doubting but it would work powerfully with him, at least at the place of execution.

THE day being come, I resolved to see the final exit of my friend, and there I enjoyed the fruit of my hopes in his repentance; for as soon as the halter was about his neck, he roared out in such a manner, as would have alarmed the most lethargic conscience that ever
 the

the Devil lulled in a stupid neglect of their future happiness: Now could I see, by his streaming eyes and wringing hands, the convulsions of his soul, and, from the confession of his own mouth, hear how he was tortured with despair; then it was that the voluminous register of his conscience, which, till then, lay clasped up in some unsearched corner of his memory, was spread open to his view, and then glared all his crimes before him in full proportion, which, till then, he had only looked at through the lessening end of the perspective; and these made him cry out incessantly for mercy 'till he was turned off.

6 NO 63

END of the FIRST VOLUME,



